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The Palmetto Blind

The Voice of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina



Construction on Osterneck Cottage at Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind progresses.

February 1980

THE
PALMETTO BLIND
THE VOICE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA
(FORMERLY THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC.)

EDITOR: DONALD C. CAPPS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC. IS CHARTERED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO PROMOTE THE SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ALL THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE PALMETTO BLIND IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ITS MEMBERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS AND IS AVAILABLE IN PRINT, OPEN REEL AND AUDIO CASSETTE EDITIONS. THE AUDIO EDITION IS A SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND.

READERS WHO RECEIVE THE OPEN REEL AND AUDIO CASSETTE EDITIONS ARE REQUESTED TO HANDLE TAPES WITH CARE AND TO RETURN THEM PROMPTLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHER USERS. IF YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A BAD TAPE, PLEASE LET THE CENTER KNOW BY DROPPING US A NOTE ENCLOSED WITH THE BAD CASSETTE SO THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN TO REMOVE THAT CASSETTE FROM OUR LIBRARY.

IF YOU OR A FRIEND WISH TO REMEMBER THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC. ALSO KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, IN YOUR WILL YOU CAN DO SO BY EMPLOYING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

"I GIVE, DIVISE AND BEQUEATH UNTO THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC. ALSO KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, P.O. BOX 4174, COLUMBIA, S.C. THE SUM OF \$____ (OR"____ PERCENT OF MY NET ESTATE", OR "THE FOLLOWING STOCKS AND BONDS:____") TO BE USED FOR ITS WORTHY PURPOSES ON BEHALF OF BLIND PERSONS AND TO BE HELD AND ADMINISTERED BY DIRECTION OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OSTERNECK COTTAGE EXPANSION ADVANCES.....	1
2. THE REV. JOHN D. LOVE JOINS NFB OF SC STAFF.....	2
3. SECOND STATE-WIDE KICK-OFF FOR ROCKY BOTTOM HELD.....	3
4. COMMISSION FILES LITIGATION AGAINST SPARTANBURG TECH.....	4
5. ROCKY BOTTOM NEWS.....	11
6. IN MEMORIAM.....	12
7. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM GROWS.....	13
8. FROM <u>THE STATE</u> - FEBRUARY 2, 1980, HANDICAPPED SERVICES.....	13
9. HEARING HELD ON COUNCIL FOR HANDICAPPED.....	14
10. BLIND'S RIGHT TO PRACTICE PHYSIOTHERAPY THREATENED.....	15
11. HEARING ON JURY BILL ANTICIPATED.....	16
12. SEMINARS HELD.....	18
13. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.....	19
14. FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....	19
15. FINAL THOUGHT.....	21

OSTERNECK COTTAGE EXPANSION ADVANCES

WITH THE EXPANSION OF OSTERNECK COTTAGE PROGRESSING DAILY, THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AND CONFERENCE CENTER IS TAKING ON A NEW LOOK. AT THIS WRITING, THE SECOND LEVEL FLOORING HAS BEEN COMPLETED. EVEN THE FIREPLACES ARE VISIBLE AND HAVE TAKEN SHAPE. SOON THE ROOFING WILL BE IN PLACE. ALMOST ALL OF THE LUMBER NEEDS FOR THE EXPANSION OF OSTERNECK COTTAGE HAVE COME FROM THE TWO OLD DORMITORIES WHICH HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN. THE OLD LUMBER IS OF THE FINEST QUALITY AND WILL PROVIDE SOUND AND LASTING CONSTRUCTION. OUR CONTRACTOR, EDGAR SMITH BUILDERS OF PICKENS, HAS BEEN METICULOUS IN HIS SELECTION OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TO ASSURE THE HANDSOME AND WELL BUILT OSTERNECK COTTAGE. SOME LAST MINUTE CHANGES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE ARCHITECT WHICH WILL RESULT IN OSTERNECK COTTAGE BEING MORE FUNCTIONAL. THE CONTRACTOR STATES THAT THE ADDITION TO OSTERNECK COTTAGE WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE SPRING AND READY FOR OCCUPANCY AT THAT TIME.

ADDITIONAL RENOVATION PLANNED

WHILE BOTH OF THE OLD DORMITORIES HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN, THE ASSEMBLY HALL AND DINING HALL STILL STAND. FUTURE PLANS CALL FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BOTH OF THESE BUILDINGS TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW COMPLEX AT ROCKY BOTTOM. HOWEVER, THERE ARE PRESENT PLANS TO DO SOME RENOVATION OF THE ASSEMBLY HALL WHICH WILL PROVIDE EXCELLENT SPACE FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS. COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT IS POPULAR IN THE ROCKY BOTTOM AREA AND A REFURBISHED ASSEMBLY HALL WILL ACCOMMODATE SUCH EVENTS. THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO RENOVATE A PORTION OF THE OLD DINING HALL TO PROVIDE SOME TEMPORARY HOUSING DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF GROUPS WHICH MAY BE USING THE CAMP FACILITIES, INCLUDING AREA FOOTBALL TEAMS.

CHAPTERS' AND DIVISIONS' RESERVATIONS MADE

AT THIS WRITING MOST OF THE 20 CHAPTERS AND DIVISIONS WHICH COMPRISE THE NFB OF SC HAVE MADE RESERVATIONS FOR A WEEKEND VISIT TO ROCKY BOTTOM. ALL 20 OF THE ORGANIZATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PLANNED PROGRAM. THUS, BLIND PERSONS FROM THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA WILL SOON HAVE A CAMPING EXPERIENCE IN ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF THE STATE. BLIND PERSONS WHO ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE NFB OF SC MAY MAKE THEIR RESERVATIONS BY CONTACTING THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND, 110 S. KILBOURNE ROAD, COLUMBIA, S.C. 29205.

THE REV. JOHN D. LOVE JOINS NFB OF SC STAFF

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT REV. JOHN D. LOVE OF WOODRUFF, S.C. HAS ACCEPTED AN IMPORTANT POST WITH THE FEDERATION. ON FEBRUARY 1, REV. LOVE BECAME THE FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AND CONFERENCE CENTER. HE BRINGS WITH HIM A DOZEN YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER MANAGEMENT. FROM 1968 TO FEBRUARY 1, WHEN HE JOINED THE FEDERATION STAFF, REV. LOVE SERVED AS CAMP DIRECTOR OF EVA GOODE CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CEDAR MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA - A PRESBYTERIAN SPONSORED CENTER. REV. LOVE IS A CERTIFIED CAMP DIRECTOR, HAVING BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION. IT IS IN THIS CAPACITY THAT THE BLIND FIRST BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THIS FINE GENTLEMAN. WHEN THE 4-H CAMP AT ROCKY BOTTOM WAS CONDEMNED IN 1967, THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO USE THESE FACILITIES AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO FIND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS. FEDERATION OFFICIALS LEARNED OF THE EVA GOODE CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER AT CEDAR MOUNTAIN AND VISITED THE CAMP DURING THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1968. IT WAS AT THAT TIME THAT THE BLIND FIRST MET JOHN AND MOLLY LOVE AND THEIR TWO LOVELY DAUGHTERS, CAROLINE AND MARY BRATTON. IT WAS "LOVE" AT FIRST SIGHT AND HAS BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE FOR ALL CONCERNED. A NATIVE OF YORK COUNTY, REV. LOVE HAS ENJOYED A SUCCESSFUL AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER. HE WAS AN OFFICER IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, HAVING SERVED IN THE ARMY FOR 3 YEARS BETWEEN 1952 AND 1955. HE IS A GRADUATE OF BOTH PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE AND COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. FOR SOME 9 YEARS, BETWEEN 1959 AND 1968, REV. LOVE WAS A FULL-TIME PASTOR. HE SERVED AS PASTOR OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WOODRUFF, WHERE HE RESIDES, FOR 6 YEARS BETWEEN 1962 AND 1968 AT WHICH TIME HE BECAME CAMP DIRECTOR AT EVA GOODE. JUST AS HE HAS SERVED THE CHURCH, REV. LOVE HAS ALSO SERVED HIS COMMUNITY IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. FOR SEVERAL YEARS HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH WOODRUFF HIGH SCHOOL AS CHAPLAIN IN THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT. REV. LOVE ALSO WORKED WITH THE YOUTH IN THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF WOODRUFF. FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS HE WAS A BOYS AND GIRLS SCOUT TROOP SPONSOR. REV. LOVE HAS ALSO BEEN A CIVIC LEADER IN HIS COMMUNITY. HE WAS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE RURITAN AND ROTARY CLUBS. DURING HIS ROTARY SERVICE HE SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE WOODRUFF ROTARY CLUB. DURING HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER, REV. LOVE HAS RECEIVED MANY AWARDS. WHILE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE HE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE AND BRONZE STAR. HE WAS ALSO A DISTINGUISHED MILITARY

STUDENT AT PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE. BOTH THE JAYCEES AND SERTOMA CLUBS PRESENTED REV. LOVE WITH THEIR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS. AS DIRECTOR OF ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AND CONFERENCE CENTER, REV. LOVE WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DIRECTING AND DEVELOPING THIS NEW PROGRAM OF SERVICE TO THE STATE'S BLIND BY THE NFB OF SC. HAVING AN EXCEPTIONAL BACKGROUND, REV. LOVE IS EMINENTLY QUALIFIED FOR HIS NEW POSITION. BY ACQUIRING THE SERVICES OF REV. LOVE, THE NFB OF SC IS ASSURED OF A TOP-FLIGHT INDIVIDUAL TO MANAGE AND DIRECT ITS NEW PROGRAM AT ROCKY BOTTOM. IN ADDITION TO DIRECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AND CONFERENCE CENTER, THE NFB OF SC IS ALSO PROUD TO ANNOUNCE A NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM OF PASTORAL SERVICE TO BE HEADED UP BY REV. LOVE. THIS MINISTRY PROVIDES A NEW DIMENSION OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND BY REV. LOVE. THIS NEW OUTREACH AND PASTORAL SERVICE PROGRAM IS IN KEEPING WITH ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION WHICH IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT OF THE BLIND. THE NFB OF SC IS EXTREMELY FORTUNATE IN HAVING REV. JOHN D. LOVE JOIN ITS STAFF. HAVING ALREADY DEMONSTRATED A WHOLESOME PHILOSOPHY TOWARD BLINDNESS, REV. JOHN D. LOVE ALSO HAS A BEAUTIFUL PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE. IT IS: "HAND IN HAND WITH JESUS CHRIST, THERE IS NO DEFEAT. YOU NEED ONLY THE COURAGE TO WALK WHERE HE LEADS". REV. LOVE'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE CLOSELY PARALLELS THE SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE NFB OF SC CHARACTERIZED BY THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE WHICH APPEARED IN ITS NEW OUTREACH AND PASTORAL SERVICE BROCHURE, "AND I WILL BRING THE BLIND BY A WAY THAT THEY KNEW NOT. I WILL LEAD THEM IN PATHS THAT THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN. I WILL MAKE DARKNESS LIGHT BEFORE THEM AND CROOKED THINGS STRAIGHT. THESE THINGS WILL I DO UNTO THEM, AND NOT FORSAKE THEM." ISAIAH 42:16.

SECOND STATEWIDE KICK-OFF FOR ROCKY BOTTOM HELD

HONORABLE EARLE E. MORRIS, JR., SOUTH CAROLINA'S DISTINGUISHED COMPTROLLER GENERAL AND STATEWIDE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AND CONFERENCE CENTER CAMPAIGN PRESIDED OVER THE SPECIAL BANQUET THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 24 AT THE FEDERATION CENTER. SOME 35 PERSONS WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THE PROGRAM FEATURED A NEW SOUND/SLIDE DOCUMENTARY ON ROCKY BOTTOM. EVERYONE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE NEW PRESENTATION. PROFESSOR PETER LEE OF THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY REFERRED TO THE NEW SOUND/SLIDE DOCUMENTARY AS PROFESSIONAL IN EVERY RESPECT. SEVERAL FEDERATIONISTS GAVE THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF ROCKY BOTTOM. COUNTY CHAIRPERSONS WHO WERE ON HAND EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR THE ROCKY BOTTOM PROJECT. SEVERAL PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE

LIONS CLUBS WERE ALSO WELCOMED GUESTS. THE NFB OF SC IS VERY PROUD TO HAVE SO MANY PROMINENT SOUTH CAROLINIANS NOW ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROCKY BOTTOM PROJECT AS CHAIRPERSONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTIES.

COMMISSION FILES LITIGATION AGAINST SPARTANBURG TECH

SINCE 1974, WHEN OFFICIALS OF YORK COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SERVED NOTICE THAT IT WAS TERMINATING THE BLIND OPERATOR OF THEIR VENDING FACILITIES AND WOULD THEREAFTER OPERATE THE FACILITIES THEMSELVES, THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR BLIND OPERATORS IN OTHER TECHNICAL COLLEGES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE YORK TECH DECISION, FOLLOWED BY LEGAL ACTION, APPEARS TO HAVE SPARKED A CHAIN-LIKE REACTION THROUGHOUT THE TECH SYSTEM IN SOUTH CAROLINA. FOLLOWING THE YORK TECH INCIDENT, OFFICIALS OF PIEDMONT TECH IN GREENWOOD TOOK ACTION WHICH RESULTED IN THE OUSTER OF THE BLIND OPERATOR OF THEIR VENDING FACILITIES. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY OFFICIALS OF SUMTER TECH WHO DECIDED THEY WANTED TO TAKE OVER THE OPERATION OF THEIR VENDING FACILITIES IN AN EXPANDED STUDENT CENTER. THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND THE NFB OF SC RESISTED THE TAKE OVER OF THE VENDING FACILITY BY SUMTER TECH OFFICIALS. WHILE SUMTER TECH DID AGREE TO EMPLOY THE BLIND OPERATOR, THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL PREVENT THE OPERATOR FROM RECEIVING THE INCREASED REVENUES GENERATED BY THE EXPANDED FACILITIES. BECAUSE OF THE COMMISSION'S AND THE FEDERATION'S RESISTANCE TO THE TAKE OVER, SUMTER TECH WAS SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING LEGISLATORS FROM THEIR AREA TO TACK ON AN AMENDMENT OR PROVISIO TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL, AS AN 11TH HOUR MANEUVER ON THE LAST DAY OF THE 1979 LEGISLATURE, WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF DIVORCING CONTROL OF THE VENDING FACILITY BY THE COMMISSION. AND NOW THERE IS THE SPARTANBURG TECH MATTER WHICH CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES A FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THIS VITAL PROGRAM FOR THE BLIND. THE BOTTOM LINE APPEARS TO BE MONETARY. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, AS IS THE CASE TOO OFTEN, THE BLIND APPEAR TO BE THE LOSERS. AS EVIDENCED BY THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE SPARTANBURG JOURNAL, SPARTANBURG, S.C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1979, COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE BEING REFERRED TO IN DEROGATORY TERMS BY SPARTANBURG TECH OFFICIALS. THE ARTICLE READS AS FOLLOWS: "NEW VENDING MACHINES AT TECH CAUSING DISAGREEMENT , BY JOHN GWINN, STAFF WRITER. SPARTANBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND THE S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND ARE INVOLVED IN A DISPUTE WHICH MAY HAVE TO BE RESOLVED IN COURT. THE MATTER CONCERNS THE RECENT

INSTALLATION OF THREE VENDING MACHINES AT THE SCHOOL. THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND SAYS THE STANDS ARE IN VIOLATION OF STATE LAW BECAUSE THEY COMPETE WITH VENDING STANDS OPERATED BY THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION'S GOVERNING BODY VOTED UNANIMOUSLY WEDNESDAY TO GO TO COURT IF NECESSARY TO PROTECT ITS OPERATORS AND TO UPHOLD THE RIGHT-TO-WORK LAW FOR THE BLIND. TECH PRESIDENT JOE GAULT SAYS THE THREE MACHINES ARE NEEDED TO SERVICE STUDENTS WHEN THE VENDING STANDS ARE NOT OPERATING AND TO PROVIDE QUICKER SERVICE DURING 10-MINUTE RECESSES BETWEEN CLASSES AND 30-MINUTE LUNCH BREAKS. "THERE IS NO DIRECT COMPETITION INVOLVED. THESE MACHINES PROVIDED SERVICE TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO OTHERWISE WOULDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO STAND IN LINE TO BUY FROM THE CANTEEN OR BUY ITEMS WHEN THE CANTEEN IS CLOSED." COUNTY ATTORNEY ROY M. SMITH SAID THURSDAY THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO REPRESENT TECH IN ANY LITIGATION. "I'M AWARE OF THE COMPLAINT BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND. I'M PRESENTLY RESEARCHING THE MATTER MORE CLOSELY AND PREPARED TO DEFEND TECH'S POSITION IF THE SITUATION IS CARRIED TO THE COURTS. I DON'T FEEL IT IS PROPER FOR ME TO COMMENT ANY FURTHER SINCE I WOULD BE REPRESENTING TECH AND THERE IS A CHANCE OF PENDING LITIGATION." SMITH RENDERED A WRITTEN OPINION TO TECH OFFICIALS LAST MARCH 21, WHICH IN EFFECT, STATED THAT TECH HAD THE RIGHT TO INSTALL THE MACHINES AND ANY FUTURE ONES IT SO DESIRED. SEVERAL STATE STATUTES MANDATE THAT THE S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND HAS THE FRANCHISE TO OPERATE VENDING STANDS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS. HOWEVER, SMITH POINTS OUT THAT A 1978 AMENDMENT EXCLUDES TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PROVISION OF THE LAW. SMITH STATED IN HIS LETTER TO TECH, "I FEEL THE IMPACT OF THIS LEGISLATION ON TECH IS MINIMUM AND SHOULD NOT PREVENT THE USE OF SUPPLEMENTARY VENDING FACILITIES. THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN ADDING SEPARATE FACILITIES REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE IN PRESENTLY EXISTING BUILDINGS OR BUILDINGS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE FUTURE." GAULT SAID THURSDAY THAT THE MATTER IS BEING BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION. "NOBODY IS TRYING TO TAKE ANYTHING FROM THE VENDING STAND OPERATORS NOR IS TECH TRYING TO MAKE MONEY OR GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION. ALL PROFITS (ABOUT \$450 PER MONTH) FROM THE THREE MACHINES WILL BE USED TO SET UP A SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR DESERVING STUDENTS. THESE MACHINES ARE ESSENTIALLY SERVING PEOPLE THAT BECAUSE OF THE TIME FACTOR OR WHATEVER WOULD NOT BUY GOODS FROM THE STAND VENDORS ANYWAY." TECH PROVIDES THE SPACE, PAYS FOR ALL UTILITIES AND ANY OTHER RELATED COSTS FOR THE BLIND TO OPERATE THE TWO STANDS. TECH DOESN'T RECEIVE ANY

OF THE SUBSTANTIAL PROFITS DERIVED FROM OPERATING THE TWO BUSINESSES WHICH PROVIDE FOOD AND SMALL CONSUMER ITEMS FOR THE APPROXIMATELY 3700 STUDENTS WHO ATTEND THE SCHOOL. IT WAS GAULT WHO INITIATED THE ACTION OF GETTING THE BLIND TO OPERATE THE VENDING STANDS AT SPARTANBURG COUNTY'S LARGEST VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SHORTLY AFTER HE TOOK OFFICE IN 1970.

"AS DIRECTOR OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER OVER IN YORK COUNTY BACK IN THE EARLY 60'S WE HAD CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS WITH VENDORS SO I WORKED AND GOT THE BLIND TO OPEN UP A STAND THERE. IT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT I ASKED THE COMMISSION HERE TO DO THE SAME THING WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE AND WE SIGNED A CONTRACT BACK IN 1971." GAULT CONTINUED, "IT HAS WORKED WELL OVER THE YEARS WHEN THERE WAS A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND, BEGINNING IN 1977, THOUGH THE WATERS HAVE BECOME A LITTLE MUDDIED. THEY (COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND) HAD SOME CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AND NOW THERE IS WHAT I CALL YOUNG MILITANTS RUNNING THE ORGANIZATION. THEY DON'T WANT TO COOPERATE AND MORE OR LESS TAKE THE ATTITUDE THEY DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANYBODY AND NOBODY CAN TELL THEM WHAT TO DO." GAULT SAYS THAT HE HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM STUDENTS WHO PATRONIZE THE VENDING STANDS ABOUT TABLES NOT BEING KEPT CLEAN, EXCESSIVE CHARGES SUCH AS FOR NAPKINS AND STRAWS AND NOT BEING PROVIDED SALT AND PEPPER. HE EMPHASIZES THAT TECH STILL DOESN'T PLAN TO REPLACE THE VENDING STANDS. "FOR THE MOST PART, THEY PROVIDE GOOD SERVICE. WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS ON THE OTHER HAND TO TAKE OUT THE THREE VENDING MACHINES. QUITE THE CONTRARY, WE PLAN TO ADD SOME VENDING MACHINES WHEN THE NEW LEARNING RESOURCE AND SHOP BUILDINGS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION ARE COMPLETED. THIS WHOLE THING IS LIKE THE TEMPEST IN THE TEAPOT AND NEEDLESSLY SO," GAULT SAID." OF A DIFFERENT TONE ENTIRELY, HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE COLUMBIA RECORD, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1979. "AN UNFORTUNATE ISSUE HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND THE SPARTANBURG TECHNICAL EDUCATION COLLEGE. THE COMMISSION SAYS IT IS PREPARED TO GO TO COURT, IF NECESSARY, TO COMPEL THE SCHOOL TO REMOVE THREE COIN-OPERATED MACHINES INSTALLED DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM A VENDING STAND OPERATED BY THE BLIND. THE CONCESSION IS ONE OF MANY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OWNED BY THE COMMISSION AND OPERATED BY BLIND CLIENTS UNDER THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM HAS THE BACKING OF STATE LAW WHICH PROHIBITS COIN-OPERATED MACHINES IN THE SAME BUILDING WITH COMMISSION STANDS. NOW, IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT SUCH A LAW VIOLATES THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE ENTERPRISE - THE RIGHT TO COMPETE ON EVEN TERMS. PERHAPS SO, BUT THROUGH THE YEARS THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED

INCOME AND MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT FOR MANY DISADVANTAGED PERSONS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE A TOUGH TIME MAKING IT IN A WORLD DOMINATED BY SIGHTED PEOPLE. ONE WOULD HOPE THAT THE MATTER CAN BE SETTLED IN A REASONABLE, UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSIONATE MANNER WITHOUT THE ABRASIVE NECESSITY OF COURT ACTION." THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE GREENVILLE NEWS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1980. "MACHINES PROMPT SUIT AT TEC, BY SALLY SAUNDERS, NEWS STAFF WRITER. SPARTANBURG: THE STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND FILED SUIT THURSDAY AGAINST SPARTANBURG TEC OFFICIALS OVER THREE VENDING MACHINES AT THE COLLEGE WHICH THE COMMISSION COMPLAINED ARE DRAWING AWAY BUSINESS FROM ITS CONCESSION STAND. BUT TEC OFFICIALS CONTEND THE VENDING MACHINES WERE INSTALLED TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH REFRESHMENTS DURING TIMES WHEN THE COMMISSION'S STANDS ARE CLOSED OR SWAMPED WITH CUSTOMERS. A HEARING ON THE MATTER HAS BEEN SET FOR MARCH 12 AT 10 PM BY 7TH CIRCUIT JUDGE WADE S. WEATHERFORD, JR. THE SUIT, FILED IN SPARTANBURG COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, NAMED AS DEFENDANTS SPARTANBURG TEC PRESIDENT JOE D. GAULT AND THE 12 MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE SUIT WAS BROUGHT BY THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ON BEHALF OF MAXINE R. BOWLES, A COMMISSIONER FOR THE STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND GROVER JONES, THE OPERATOR OF THE COMMISSION'S CONCESSION STAND IN TEC'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. ACCORDING TO THE SUIT, THREE COIN OPERATED VENDING MACHINES WERE PLACED LAST SEPTEMBER IN SPARTANBURG TEC'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE COMMISSION'S CONCESSION STAND. THE SUIT CLAIMS THE 3 VENDING MACHINES VIOLATE STATE LAW WHICH ALLOWS ONLY 2 VENDING MACHINES TO BE PLACED AT AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS A CONCESSION STAND OPERATED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND. THE VENDING MACHINES CANNOT BE IN THE SAME BUILDING AS THE COMMISSION'S CONCESSION STAND, THE SUIT STATES. THE SUIT CLAIMS THE COMMISSION'S STAND HAS BEEN SO "DAMAGED BY THE LOSS OF INCOME" DUE TO THE PLACEMENT OF THREE COIN-OPERATED MACHINES THAT IT HAS BECOME "ECONOMICALLY INFEASIBLE" FOR THE COMMISSION TO CONTINUE OPERATING ITS FACILITY. THE SUIT POINTS OUT THAT TEC WAS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ALLOW CONCESSION STANDS OPERATED BY THE BLIND TO OPERATE IN ITS BUILDINGS. BUT IF THE SCHOOL PERMITS THE CONCESSION STANDS, IT MAY NOT PLACE COIN OPERATED VENDING MACHINES TO COMPETE WITH THE COMMISSION'S FACILITY, THE SUIT STATES. PLACEMENT OF THE THREE MACHINES IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONSTITUTED "CONSTRUCTIVE TERMINATION" OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SPARTANBURG TEC AND THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND, THE SUIT CONTENDS. THE COMMISSION ASKS THE COURT TO PERMANENTLY ENJOIN THE COLLEGE FROM PLACING VENDING MACHINES IN COMPETITION WITH ITS CON-

CESSION STANDS. SPARTANBURG TEC PRESIDENT GAULT SAID THURSDAY HE WAS NOT AWARE THE SUIT HAD BEEN FILED, BUT THAT TEC OFFICIALS KNEW IT WAS COMING. GAULT SAID TEC OFFICIALS DECIDED TO INSTALL THE MACHINES AFTER FIELDING COMPLAINTS FROM FACULTY AND STUDENTS THAT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THE COMMISSION'S STAND WAS CLOSED OR TOO BUSY TO ACCOMMODATE THEM. "WE PUT IN THE MACHINES PRIMARILY FOR THE STUDENTS WHO ARE AT THE SCHOOL AFTER HOURS WHEN THE CONCESSION STAND IS CLOSED," GAULT SAID. "WE HAD SOME COMPLAINTS FROM THE STUDENTS AND STAFF THAT THE COMMISSION'S CONCESSION STAND WAS SO BUSY DURING CLASS BREAKS THEY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO STAND IN LINE WHEN THEY MIGHT WANT TO BUY ONLY ONE ITEM," THE TEC PRESIDENT CONTINUED. HE SAID THE COLLEGE ALSO HAD MANY STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED CLASSES ON SATURDAY WHEN THE CONCESSION STAND IS NOT OPEN. GAULT SAID THE TEC BOARD INFORMED THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND IT WAS CONSIDERING INSTALLING THE VENDING MACHINES. "THEY HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO SEEK AN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION ON THE MATTER BUT THEY DIDN'T DO IT," GAULT SAID. BEFORE INSTALLING THE MACHINES THE TEC PRESIDENT SAID THE BOARD CONFERRED WITH SPARTANBURG COUNTY ATTORNEY ROY M. SMITH WHO GAVE THE GO-AHEAD TO PLACE THE MACHINES. GAULT SAID HE THOUGHT THE VENDING MACHINES WERE HELPING THE BLIND CONCESSIONAIRES WHO OPERATED THE TWO STANDS AT THE COLLEGE. "THE MACHINES GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLOSE THEIR STANDS DURING SLOW TIMES - LIKE IN LATE AFTERNOON TO HAVE SOME TIME OFF BEFORE THEY OPEN BACK UP AT 6:30 PM, HE SAID. THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND HAS OPERATED STANDS AT THE SCHOOL SINCE 1971." THE SECTIONS OF THE VENDING FACILITY LAW REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING NEWSPAPER ARTICLE READ AS FOLLOWS: "SECTION 9 - THIS ACT SHALL NOT APPLY TO HOSPITALS, FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND THEIR BRANCHES, PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, FACILITIES DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO ATHLETICS OR TO STATE, MUNICIPAL, COUNTY OR CIVIC CENTER AUDITORIUMS AND ASSEMBLY HALLS NOR SHALL THERE BE ANY PROHIBITIONS TO THE PLACEMENT OF UP TO TWO COIN OPERATED VENDING MACHINES IN BUILDINGS ON THE PUBLIC PROPERTY PROVIDED THEY ARE NOT LOCATED IN A BUILDING WHERE THERE IS A VENDING FACILITY OPERATED BY THE COMMISSION. SECTION 10 - NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, A VENDING FACILITY OPERATED BY A BLIND PERSON ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, INCLUDING TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT SHALL BE TERMINATED OR CLOSED WITHOUT WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION AND SUCH APPROVAL SHALL NOT BE UNREASONABLY WITHHELD." IN AN ATTEMPT TO REVERSE THIS DISTURBING TREND, THE

NFB OF SC INVITED THE STATE DIRECTOR OF THE TECH COLLEGE SYSTEM IN SOUTH CAROLINA, MR. WILLIAM DUDLEY, TO SPEAK TO THIS CONVENTION IN 1978. UNFORTUNATELY, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE BLIND, THE DESIRED RESULTS FROM MR. DUDLEY'S APPEARANCE HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED. THIS ISN'T TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT MR. DUDLEY IS NOT INTERESTED IN THIS PROBLEM BUT IT IS HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT COUNTY BOARDS HAVE FAR MORE INFLUENCE ON THE OPERATION OF REGIONAL TECH COLLEGES THAN DOES THE STATE DIRECTOR. THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE 1978 CONVENTION DEALING WITH THE TECH MATTER:

WHEREAS, IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE THE BLIND AND THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE STATE AND TO ENGAGE IN REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT AS EXPRESSED IN THE STATE'S "WHITE CANE LAW"; AND

WHEREAS, SECTION 6 OF THE "WHITE CANE LAW" READS AS FOLLOWS: IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS STATE THAT THE BLIND, THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED AND OTHERWISE PHYSICALLY DISABLED SHALL BE EMPLOYED IN THE STATE SERVICE, THE SERVICE OF THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE, IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND IN ALL OTHER EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY PUBLIC FUNDS ON THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE ABLE-BODIED, UNLESS IT IS SHOWN THAT THE PARTICULAR DISABILITY PREVENTS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK INVOLVED; AND

WHEREAS, STATE TECHNICAL EDUCATION FACILITIES RECEIVE PUBLIC FUNDS AND THEREFORE MUST ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE WHITE CANE LAW WHICH CHARGES THEM WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING QUALITY VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THE BLIND AS WELL AS THE SIGHTED, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED THIS 19TH DAY OF AUGUST 1978 IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA THAT THIS ORGANIZATION STRONGLY ENCOURAGES THE STATE BOARD FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO CLOSELY EXAMINE THEIR HIRING PRACTICES SPECIFICALLY RELATING TO THE BLIND IN ADDITION TO AVAILABLE AVENUES LEADING TO EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND PERSONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA WILL COOPERATE IN ALL VALID EFFORTS WITH THE STATE BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND MORE FRUITFUL EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE, AND THAT THE NFB OF SC WILL CONTINUE TO COMMIT ITSELF TO LOCATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLIND CITIZENS OF THIS STATE IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS AS WELL AS OTHER INSTITUTIONS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE WHITE CANE LAW.

THE SITUATIONS AT YORK TECH, PIEDMONT TECH, SUMTER TECH AND NOW SPARTANBURG TECH, INVOLVE ONE THING, MONEY. THESE INSTITUTIONS CLAIM THAT THEY NEED THE REVENUE FOR ONE THING OR ANOTHER AND UNDOUBTEDLY, THEY DO. HOWEVER, IT IS A FACT THAT THE STATE'S TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL APPROPRIATIONS BY OUR LEGISLATURE AND ARE TAX-SUPPORTED. THERE IS A STATE STATUTE WHICH IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE "MODEL WHITE CANE LAW". THIS STATUTE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PROVISION:

SECTION I. IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS STATE TO ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE THE BLIND, THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED, AND THE OTHERWISE PHYSICALLY DISABLED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE STATE AND TO ENGAGE IN REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT.

THIS STATUTORY PROVISION REALLY MEANS SOMETHING OR IT DOES NOT. FOR MANY YEARS THE STATE'S TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM THROUGH ITS REGIONAL CENTERS WERE PROVIDING MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT TO THE BLIND. IF IT TRULY IS THE POLICY OF THIS STATE FOR THE BLIND TO ENJOY AND SHARE IN THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THIS STATE, SURELY THE BLIND HAVE A RIGHT TO BE A PART OF THE STATE'S SERVICE AND STATE EMPLOYMENT INCLUDING OUR TECHNICAL COLLEGES. THOUSANDS OF SOUTH CAROLINIANS WHO ARE NOT BLIND ARE GREATLY BENEFITTING BY THE EXCELLENT PROGRAMS OFFERED BY OUR TECHNICAL COLLEGES, GAINING SKILLS ENABLING THEM TO WORK AND ENJOY A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE. IT SEEMS STRANGE AND INEQUITABLE THAT BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS ARE LOSING OUT IN OUR TECHNICAL COLLEGES BASED ON THE ARGUMENT THAT THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE SO BAD OFF FINANCIALLY THAT THEY MUST HAVE THE REVENUE GENERATED BY THEIR VENDING FACILITIES EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS

WHO STILL HAVE A 70% RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT. IT REPRESENTS A SITUATION IN STATE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS HIGHLY REGRETTABLE AS IT ADVERSELY AFFECTS A SEGMENT OF THE STATE'S POPULATION WHICH MUST BE GIVEN SOME PRIORITY IF THE BLIND TRULY ARE TO SHARE IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE STATE. THE NFB OF SC AND THE BLIND OF THE STATE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED AND DISTURBED AND CALL UPON APPROPRIATE STATE OFFICIALS TO STEP IN AND WORK OUT AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION.

ROCKY BOTTOM NEWS

BY MARY McMILLAN

SINCE MY HUSBAND AND I FIRST MOVED TO THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND IN OCTOBER TO LIVE IN THE OSTERNECK COTTAGE, WE HAVE BEEN GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE ROCKY BOTTOM COMMUNITY. AT FIRST WE WERE A LITTLE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT MOVING TO AN AREA WHERE WE DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE, BUT OUR FEARS SOON DISAPPEARED WHEN WE FOUND THAT THE MOUNTAIN FOLKS ARE VERY FRIENDLY. THEY ALL STRESS AN INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS OF THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AND ARE ANXIOUS TO HELP IN EVERY WAY THAT THEY CAN. THEY ALL REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND WILL BE TO THE BLIND CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND THEIR FAMILIES AND IT WILL ALSO BE A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS COMMUNITY. WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED A FEW "LEARNING EXPERIENCES" OF OUR OWN SINCE LIVING IN ROCKY BOTTOM. BEING BASICALLY CITY PEOPLE WE HAD TO GET USED TO THE DAILY ROUTINE OF LIVING IN THE MOUNTAINS. SPLITTING WOOD TO KEEP A FIRE GOING IS A DAILY OCCURRENCE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS ALONG WITH BEING AWAKENED AT DAWN BY THE CROWING OF NEIGHBORING ROOSTERS. ON TWO DIFFERENT OCCASIONS I HAVE HELPED WITH THE ANNUAL HOG BUTCHERING JOKINGLY KNOWN OF AS A "PIG STICKEN." THIS WAS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SORT OF THING, BUT I MUST ADMIT IT ISN'T AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS. THE WHOLE PROCESS OF BUTCHERING TAKES ABOUT 3 DAYS AND THERE ARE ALWAYS PLENTY OF HELPING HANDS TO MAKE THE WORK LIGHTER. HOG BUTCHERING INVOLVES SALT OR SUGAR CURING THE HAMS AND SHOULDERS, MAKING BACON, GRINDING SAUSAGE AND "RENDERING" THE LARD. "RENDERING" IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH LARD IS MADE TO BE STORED IN CANS FOR FUTURE USE IN COOKING AND FRYING. IT IS ALSO THE WAY CRACKLINGS ARE MADE WHICH ARE DELICIOUS IN CORNBREAD. THEN THERE IS ALWAYS FRESH PORK LEFT OVER FOR FREEZING. ONE THING THAT IMPRESSED US ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY IS THAT WHEN THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE ALL OF THE NEIGHBORS GET TOGETHER

AND HELP ONE ANOTHER. THIS SHARING IS WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS MORE OF. DOUG AND I HAVE ATTENDED THE ROCKY BOTTOM BAPTIST CHURCH ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. THIS IS A QUAIN, MOUNTAIN CHURCH WITH A SMALL CONGREGATION. THE MOUNTAIN FOLK ARE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WHO ARE VERY DEVOTED TO THEIR CHURCH, NOT ONLY AS A HOUSE OF WORSHIP, BUT AS A BIG PART OF THEIR SOCIAL LIFE. THEY PARTICIPATE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY IN THEIR WORSHIP SERVICE AND IT IS VERY INSPIRING TO WORSHIP WITH THEM. THE MOUNTAINS ARE A PERFECT PLACE TO FEEL CLOSER TO OUR GOD BECAUSE OF THE BEAUTY THAT SURROUNDS US. IN THE SPRING THE ROCKY BOTTOM GENERAL STORE WILL ONCE MORE OPEN. THE GENERAL STORE IS CLOSED DURING THE WINTER MONTHS DUE TO THE COLD. IT IS QUITE A NOSTALGIC TRIP WHEN YOU ENTER THE STORE BECAUSE OF THE OLD-FASHIONED GLASS CANDY COUNTER, THE HARDWOOD FLOORS, THE OLD-FASHIONED SODA COOLER, AND THE GLASS COOKIE JARS. THE STORE-KEEPER IS A NATIVE OF ROCKY BOTTOM WHO OPENS THE STORE MOSTLY FOR HER OWN PERSONAL PLEASURE. SHE REALLY ENJOYS TALKING WITH THE PEOPLE WHO COME IN THE STORE TO BUY A COLD DRINK OR MAYBE A PACK OF CRACKERS. AND YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND HER SITTING ON THE FRONT PORCH WAITING FOR HER NEXT CUSTOMER. SHE ALSO SELLS BEAUTIFUL QUILTS, HANDMADE BY ANOTHER ROCKY BOTTOM NEIGHBOR. WE GET VERY EXCITED AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT OUR NEW LIFE HERE AT ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND. OUR NEW FRIENDS THINK WE ARE SILLY BECAUSE THIS LIFE IS ROUTINE TO THEM. IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD LIVING DIFFERENT KINDS OF LIVES, BUT ALL OF US ARE WHAT MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND. WE CAN LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER. I KNOW THAT THERE ARE NEW EXPERIENCES HERE AT THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND FOR ALL OF US AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING THESE EXPERIENCES WITH YOU.

IN MEMORIAM

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA LOST TWO OF ITS MOST FAITHFUL MEMBERS IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY. ON JANUARY 6TH JOHN W. "BILLY" POTTER PASSED AWAY IN THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL AFTER A BRIEF ILLNESS. FOLLOWING A LONG ILLNESS MILDRED GRISER PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 31ST. BOTH BILLY AND MILDRED HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS. THEY HAD SERVED THE ORGANIZATION LOYALLY IN MANY IMPORTANT CAPACITIES. BILLY, AS HE WAS AFFECTIONATELY CALLED, SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER AND ALSO WAS A FORMER STATE OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER. MILDRED SERVED

WITH DISTINCTION ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND. SHE HAD ALSO SERVED AS AN OFFICER OF THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER. DURING THE EARLIER DAYS OF THE THEN AURORA CENTER OF THE BLIND MILDRED GRISER'S INFLUENCE WAS A STABILIZING FORCE. IT IS REMEMBERED THAT MILDRED LOVINGLY PURCHASED ONE OF THE SEVERAL TABLES FOR THE CENTER IN THE EARLIER DAYS. SHE WAS ALWAYS GENEROUS. LIKEWISE BILLY MADE MANY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FEDERATION. DURING CANVAS NIGHTS WHEN THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER WAS IN THE MIDST OF ITS ANNUAL BAR-BECUE SUPPER, BILLY COULD BE COUNTED UPON TO PARTICIPATE. BOTH BILLY AND MILDRED WILL BE GREATLY MISSED AND THE NFB OF SC EXTENDS SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THEIR FAMILIES.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM GROWS

A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM OF SPECIAL SERVICE TO DESERVING BLIND FAMILIES IN THE COLUMBIA AREA LAUNCHED A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO CONTINUES TO GROW. NEARLY FIFTY BLIND FAMILIES WERE THE RECIPIENTS OF CASH GIFTS AND FOOD BASKETS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SPECIAL FEDERATION CENTER PROGRAM. BUSINESSES, CHURCHES, AND INDIVIDUALS SUPPORT THIS ANNUAL PROJECT. FOR THE SECOND YEAR, THE SEVEN OAKS LIONS CLUB OF COLUMBIA JOINED WITH THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND IN PROVIDING FOOD BASKETS. THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND IS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT MANY LIONS' MEMBERS PERSONALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE DELIVERY OF THE FOOD BASKETS. CASH GIFTS AND FOOD ITEMS TOTALLED WELL IN EXCESS OF \$1,000 AND WERE WELCOME GIFTS FOR THE NEARLY FIFTY BLIND FAMILIES.

FROM THE STATE - FEBRUARY 2, 1980 HANDICAPPED SERVICES

AN ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN FORMED TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE HANDICAPPED CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE S.C. PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR THE HANDICAPPED, INC., HAS BEEN FORMED AT THE DIRECTION OF GOV. DICK RILEY. ELOISE RUFF OF ROCK HILL HAS BEEN ELECTED TO CHAIR THE GROUP, AND LOUISE R. RAVENEL HEADS THE GROUP WITH A 21-MEMBER STAFF IN FOUR OFFICES AROUND THE STATE. SERVICES ARE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST TO ANY SUBSTANTIALLY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS A PROBLEM WITHOUT REGARD TO INCOME, AGE, TYPE OF DISABILITY, RESIDENCY, SEX, RACE OR RELIGION. FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM, 2360-A TWO NOTCH ROAD, COLUMBIA, OR PHONE 254-1600.

HEARING HELD ON COUNCIL FOR HANDICAPPED

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND PARTICIPATED IN A RECENT HEARING ON LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD CREATE A SPECIAL COUNCIL FOR THE HANDICAPPED. SUZANNE BRIDGES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND, REPRESENTED THE NFB OF SC AT THIS HEARING. MISS BRIDGES PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING PAPER IN SUPPORT OF THE POSITION OF THE NFB OF SC:

PRESENTATION TO MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED AND OTHER HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

MY NAME IS SUZANNE BRIDGES. I AM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND, AND I AM REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA. FOR 35 YEARS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA HAS WORKED TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE FOR BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE PROMOTED LEGISLATION, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF BLIND PERSONS. WE WERE REPRESENTED AT THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS; AND THROUGH OUR NATIONAL OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WE MAINTAIN A DIRECT CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION OF OUR NEEDS AS BLIND PERSONS WITH NATIONAL LEADERS AND AGENCIES. WE HAVE HAD, THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE, A NATIONAL FORUM FOR SHARING OUR BELIEFS AND VIEWS ABOUT NECESSARY ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE HANDICAPPED; AND WE HAVE SUCCEEDED AS HANDICAPPED PERSONS IN GAINING THE ATTENTION OF LEGISLATORS AS EVIDENCED BY THE PASSAGE OF THE 504 AMENDMENTS, PL 94-142 AND PL 95-602. WE NEED NOW TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE FORUM IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN WHICH ALL HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS CAN EXPRESS OR HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR NEEDS. WE NEED A COUNCIL IN WHICH THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND KNOWLEDGE AMONG HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES AND AGENCIES SERVING THE HANDICAPPED CAN TAKE PLACE. WE NEED AN ADVOCACY GROUP OF COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO WILL ACT NOT ONLY IN RESPONSE TO EXISTING LEGISLATION BUT WHO WILL ALSO EXPLORE FUTURE NEEDS. AND MOST OF ALL WE NEED A COUNCIL IN WHICH WE AS CONSUMERS CAN PLAY A MAJOR PART IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECTS OUR LIVES. WHILE THE NATIONAL FEDERA-

(15)

TION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA RECOGNIZES THAT THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT HANDICAPPED GROUPS ARE UNIQUE AND SPECIFIC TO THEIR PARTICULAR HANDICAP, WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT COMMON LEGISLATION AND CONCERNS DO EXIST WHICH AFFECT US AS A WHOLE. WE, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SUPPORT THE CREATION OF THE JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED AND OTHER HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT WILL INDEED SURPASS THE TOKEN REPRESENTATION TOO OFTEN APPLIED BY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED TO HELP THE HANDICAPPED. FURTHERMORE, AS THE LARGEST CONSUMER ORGANIZATION OF THE BLIND IN SOUTH CAROLINA, WE URGE OUR STATE AGENCY, THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN WORK WITH THE BLIND, TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS COUNCIL ALSO.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
SUZANNE BRIDGES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BLIND'S RIGHT TO PRACTICE PHYSIOTHERAPY THREATENED

IF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS MAKES GOOD ON A POSITION APPARENTLY ADOPTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOULD BE BARRED FROM PRACTICING PHYSIOTHERAPY. THE PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD HAS TALKED OF SPONSORING LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SIGHT AS A PREREQUISITE FOR BEING LICENSED OR REGISTERED AS A PHYSIOTHERAPIST. THIS WOULD OF COURSE HAVE THE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING BLIND PERSONS FROM THE PROFESSION. THE NFB OF SC HAS ADVISED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AS WELL AS THE PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD OF ITS OPPOSITION TO SUCH LEGISLATION. THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS SENT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY THE NFB OF SC:

GENERAL DAN McLEOD
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. Box 11549
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211

DEAR GENERAL McLEOD:

IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT MS. SALLEY YOUNG OF YOUR OFFICE MAY HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY THE S.C. PHYSICAL THERAPIST BOARD TO DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE A BLIND PERSON FROM BECOMING A REGISTERED PHYSICAL THERAPIST IN SOUTH CAROLINA. WE ARE EXTREMELY

CONCERNED OVER THIS SITUATION. CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THERE IS A 70% RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE EMPLOYABLE BLIND IN SOUTH CAROLINA WE ALL NEED TO BE CONCERNED OVER OPENING MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND RATHER THAN SEEKING THROUGH LEGISLATION OR OTHERWISE MEANS FOR CLOSING DOORS OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PRACTICING REGISTERED BLIND PHYSICAL THERAPISTS. ADDITIONALLY, SUCH PROPOSED LEGISLATION, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, WOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY ON ITS SURFACE. SUCH LEGISLATION MAY ALSO CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF FULL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS TO BLIND CITIZENS. UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS YOUR GOOD OFFICE AND THE S.C. PHYSICAL THERAPIST BOARD TO WITHDRAW PLANS FOR SUCH LEGISLATION WHICH OF COURSE, IF ENACTED INTO LAW, WOULD BE A SERIOUS DETRIMENT TO THE PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING OF THE BLIND. WHILE WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY, IF SUCH LEGISLATION IS INTRODUCED, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ADVISE YOUR GOOD OFFICE AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED THAT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, IN CARRYING OUT ITS COMMITMENT TO THE BLIND, WILL VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE SUCH LEGISLATION. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE ARE DISTURBED OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT AND WE WILL ASK THAT YOU PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US REGARDING THIS MATTER AT YOUR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. WITH KINDEST PERSONAL REGARDS AND BEST WISHES, I AM

VERY SINCERELY,
DONALD C. CAPPS
PRESIDENT

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS AREA. FEDERATION OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF ANY LEGISLATION CONFERENCES INCLUDING FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE HELD. A NUMBER OF BLIND PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE NATION ARE REGISTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS. ORAM ROCHESTER, A NATIVE SOUTH CAROLINIAN, WHO GRADUATED FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND IS A REGISTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST HAVING PRACTICED PHYSIOTHERAPY FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS IN JACKSONVILLE.

HEARING ON JURY BILL ANTICIPATED

OFFICIALS OF THE NFB OF SC HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THERE WILL SOON BE A PUBLIC HEARING ON S455 BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. THE POSI

(17)

TION OF THE NFB OF SC IS WELL KNOWN AND IS SUCCINCTLY COVERED IN THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL R. DANIEL

Box 249

GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29340

DEAR MR. DANIEL:

FIRST LET ME EXTEND SINCERE, WARM WISHES FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. WHEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES NEXT WEEK YOU WILL BE FACED WITH MAKING DECISIONS ON MANY BILLS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR POSITION AND WE ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE BLIND IN THE PAST. AS A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE YOU WILL BE TAKING A POSITION ON S-455- ATTACHED. S-455 IN ITS PRESENT FORM IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO THE BLIND. THE SOLE PURPOSE IN HAVING LEGISLATION INTRODUCED CONCERNING JURY SERVICE WAS TO CORRECT THE INEQUITIES OF THE EXISTING STATUTE IN WHICH THE TRIAL JUDGE CAN DISQUALIFY PROSPECTIVE BLIND JURORS SIMPLY ON THE BASIS OF BLINDNESS. S-455, AS PASSED BY THE SENATE, CONTAINS FAR MORE INEQUITIES AND HARMFUL PROVISIONS THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN THE EXISTING STATUTE. S-455 REQUIRES THAT A LEGALLY BLIND PERSON MUST IDENTIFY HIMSELF AS "BLIND" TO THE COURT. S-455 REQUIRES THAT THE COURT CONSULT WITH ATTORNEYS FOR ALL PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE WHETHER A BLIND PERSON CAN RENDER EFFICIENT JURY SERVICE. S-455 PROVIDES FOR AUTOMATIC EXEMPTION FROM JURY SERVICE IF A PERSON IS LEGALLY BLIND. BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS WANT EQUAL TREATMENT IN JURY SELECTION. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE AUTOMATICALLY EXEMPTED NOR DO WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE MADE TO IDENTIFY OURSELVES AS BLIND - OTHERS WITH A PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC OR IMPAIRMENT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. BLINDNESS IS A CHARACTERISTIC - LOSS OF SIGHT - NOT LOSS OF JUDGEMENT AND REASON. WE WANT TO BE CHOSEN OR STRICKEN FROM JURY SERVICE ON THE SAME BASIS AS ANYONE ELSE. AS IT STANDS NOW, THERE IS NO UNIFORMITY OF THE LAW - SOME BLIND PERSONS ARE SERVING AS JURORS AND OTHERS ARE BEING SUMMARILY DISMISSED. JURY SERVICE GOES HAND IN HAND WITH A BLIND PERSON'S RIGHT... TO VOTE ...TO WORK...AND TO PAY TAXES! THE THREE PROVISIONS IN S-455 CITED ABOVE MUST BE AMENDED OUT TO PROTECT OUR BASIC RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP AND TO ENSURE EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF THE BLIND. THE ISSUE IS NOT ONE OF ABILITY OR QUALIFICATIONS - THERE ARE MANY ACTIVE BLIND ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES - THE ISSUE IS WHETHER OUR RIGHTS WILL BE ABRIDGED BECAUSE

(18)

OF MISCONCEPTIONS, MISINFORMED THINKING OR WILLINGNESS TO IGNORE OUR BASIC RIGHT TO SHARE FIRST-CLASS CITIZENSHIP WITH SIGHTED PEOPLE. WE HAVE UNDERLINED THOSE PROVISIONS IN THE BILL WHICH WE WANT AMENDED OUT. THE BLIND OF THE STATE WILL APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AS NONE OF US WANTS OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS ABRIDGED. THANK YOU.

YOURS VERY TRULY,
DONALD C. CAPPS
PRESIDENT

SEMINARS HELD

TWO SEMINARS WERE HELD IN JANUARY AT THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND. ON JANUARY 5TH SOME 150 FEDERATIONISTS REPRESENTING TWENTY CHAPTERS AND DIVISIONS THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA ATTENDED THE ANNUAL STATE-WIDE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR. ON JANUARY 26TH THERE WAS A SPECIAL SEMINAR FOR PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE TWENTY ORGANIZATIONS COMPRISING THE MFB OF SC. MR. DICK FERNALD, RENOWNED IN THE AREAS OF PERSONAL MOTIVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, MADE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MORNING SESSION OF THE STATE-WIDE SEMINAR. IN HIS CHALLENGING PRESENTATION, MR. FERNALD ASKED HIS ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE TO ADOPT SPECIFIC GOALS FOR 1980. SUBSTANTIAL MEMBERSHIP INCREASES EMERGED AS THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE DELEGATES. THE AFTERNOON SESSION FEATURED A NEW SOUND/SLIDE DOCUMENTARY ON ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AND CONFERENCE CENTER. OTHER STATE-WIDE BUSINESS WAS DISCUSSED INCLUDING THE MINNEAPOLIS FUND CHAIRED BY C. A. GATLIN. A MOCK RECRUITING EFFORT WAS PARTICIPATED IN BY SUZANNE BRIDGES, BOB BELL AND DONALD CAPPS. SPECIAL MATERIALS BEING OFFERED BY THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WERE PRESENTED. THESE INCLUDE: THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED IN COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT: A GUIDE TO COMPLIANCE - \$2.25; BLINDNESS AND DISORDERS OF THE EYE, BY LEO J. PLUMMER, M.D., OPHTHALMOLOGIST - \$2.00; HANDBOOK FOR BLIND COLLEGE STUDENTS - \$2.25; A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS OF BLIND CHILDREN, BY DORIS M. WILLOUGHBY, COPYRIGHT, 1979 - \$4.95; SECTION 504 AND BLIND EMPLOYEES - A GUIDE TO REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION AND AN ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES, BY RAMONA WALHOF, COPYRIGHT, 1979 - \$3.95; WHY SECTION 504: DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE BLIND IN EMPLOYMENT, A CASE REVIEW, PUBLISHED BY NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, COPYRIGHT 1979 -

(19)

\$4.95; AND YOUR SCHOOL INCLUDES A BLIND STUDENT, BY DORIS WILLOUGHBY - \$2.25. THE ASSOCIATES AND PAC PROGRAMS OF THE NFB WERE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH MEMBERS URGED TO PARTICIPATE. MANY OBSERVED THAT THE 1980 STATE-WIDE SEMINAR WAS THE BIGGEST AND BEST. THE PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR ON JANUARY 26TH WAS TO ASSIST BOTH NEW AND OLD PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF CHAPTERS AND DIVISIONS. THERE WERE MANY NEW PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NFB OF SC AND GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING A CHAPTER WERE THOROUGHLY REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED. RESERVATIONS FOR ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND BY THE DIFFERENT CHAPTERS AND DIVISIONS WERE ALSO SCHEDULED. INCLUDED IN THE DISCUSSION WAS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE ORGANIZATION AND ITS CHAPTERS AND DIVISIONS.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - BY WILLIAM TUCK

(MR. TUCK IS A MEMBER OF THE GREENVILLE CHAPTER)

FIRST I WISH TO THANK THE NFB FOR ALLOWING ME TO SHARE MY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY WITH YOU LATELY: FIRST AT THE BLIND VENDOR'S ASSOCIATION MEETING IN DECEMBER, AND ALSO AT THE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR ON JANUARY 5. LAST FALL I BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH AN ORGANIZATION CALLED PRO-VITA. ITS MAIN LINE OF PRODUCTS INCLUDE DEHYDRATED FOODS, VITAMINS, HERBS AND WEIGHT-REDUCING KITS. RECENTLY THE COMPANY ADDED AN EXERCISING MACHINE CALLED THE PRO JOGGER. THIS SPRING I PLAN TO DONATE A PRO JOGGER TO THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP. FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND EITHER OF THESE MEETINGS I EXPLAINED THAT PRO-VITA PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR BLIND PEOPLE TO EARN MONEY. TO BECOME A PRO-VITA DISTRIBUTOR ONE MUST ONLY PAY A \$3.00 MEMBERSHIP FEE. FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS I HAVE PROMISED TO MATCH THE \$3.00 FEE BY DONATING \$3.00 TO THE MINNEAPOLIS FUND FOR ANY NFB MEMBER WHO WISHES TO JOIN THE PRO-VITA TEAM. I WILL ALSO HELP PROVIDE ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING NECESSARY FOR ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS WHO SIGN UP. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT BILL TUCK, 610 SUMTER ST., GREENVILLE, SC 29611, PHONE (803) 246-7611.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY: DONALD C. CAPPS

1980 HAS CERTAINLY GOTTEN OFF TO A TORRID PACE IN THE NFB OF SC. MANY IMPORTANT MEETINGS AS REPORTED ON ELSEWHERE IN THIS PUBLICATION WERE HELD IN JANUARY. OTHERS ARE PENDING AS THERE SEEMS TO BE NO LET

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF THE PALMETTO BLIND THREE MONTHS AGO IN NOVEMBER 1979, THERE HAS BEEN A HOST OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS ON ALL FRONTS. MOST ARE POSITIVE BUT NOT ALL. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, IT WAS OUR PLEASURE TO VISIT MANY CHAPTERS DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. THERE WERE LARGE CROWDS AND THE SPIRIT WAS GOOD. THERE ARE NOW MANY NEW FACES IN FEDERATION SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE. AT NO TIME IN THE PAST HAVE MORE BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS BEEN INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMON GOOD. AN OUTSTANDING STATE-WIDE MEMBERSHIP IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE THING THE NFB OF SC HAS GOING FOR IT. IN RECENT MONTHS THE ENLISTMENT OF MANY PROMINENT SOUTH CAROLINIANS IN THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMPAIGN IS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM HAS SERVED TO FOCUS CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION ON THE OVERALL NEEDS OF THE BLIND INCLUDING RECREATIONAL AND ADJUSTMENT SERVICE ROCKY BOTTOM WILL OFFER AMONG OTHER THINGS. HOWEVER THE ROCKY BOTTOM PROJECT IS A BIG PROGRAM AND MUST HAVE THE INVOLVEMENT OF A LOT OF PEOPLE IF IT IS TO BE ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL. IF YOU'RE NOT ALREADY FULLY INVOLVED AND COMMITTED THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR YOU TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE REST OF US WHO ARE TOTALLY COMMITTED. WE ARE PROUD OF THE SUCCESSFUL SEMINARS HELD IN JANUARY. MEETINGS OF THIS TYPE ARE HELPFUL TO ALL CONCERNED AND PROVIDE THE PROPER IMPETUS FOR THE GROWTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE ENTIRE ORGANIZATION. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THERE IS THE SITUATION AT SPARTANBURG TECH AND THE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTY WITH THE STATE'S PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD. THESE ARE SITUATIONS WHICH GO TO THE VERY HEART OF BLIND PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS - THE RIGHT TO WORK. IT'S ONE THING FOR BLIND PERSONS BREAKING THROUGH PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN SEEKING EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BUT IT IS ENTIRELY ANOTHER THING FOR LEGAL ENTITIES SUCH AS THE STATE'S TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND THE STATE'S PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD TO HAVE POLICIES OR SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD EFFECTIVELY BAR BLIND PERSONS FROM THIS TYPE OF JOB OPPORTUNITY. THERE IS STILL NO LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION OF THE BLIND'S LEGAL RIGHT TO BE TREATED LIKE PROSPECTIVE SIGHTED JURORS. TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY THERE IS STILL A CITIZENSHIP GAP BETWEEN THE SIGHTED AND THE BLIND. THIS CITIZENSHIP GAP MUST BE APPROPRIATELY BRIDGED IF BLIND PERSONS ARE TRULY TO ENJOY THE SAME CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED ALL AMERICANS. TO ASSURE CREDIBILITY AND EQUALITY, THE NFB OF SC MUST CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN REACHING A FAIR AND REASONABLE SOLUTION TO THESE DIFFICULTIES. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE PLENTY OF WORK IN

THE NEW YEAR AND THE 1980'S FOR THOSE OF US INTERESTED IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL THE BLIND.

FINAL THOUGHT

DON'T QUIT

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG AS THEY SOMETIMES WILL,
WHEN THE ROAD YOU'RE TRUDGING SEEMS ALL UP HILL,
WHEN THE FUNDS ARE LOW AND THE DEBTS ARE HIGH
AND YOU WANT TO SMILE BUT YOU HAVE TO SIGH,
WHEN CARE IS PRESSING YOU DOWN A BIT,
REST, IF YOU MUST, BUT DON'T YOU QUIT.

LIFE IS STRANGE WITH ITS TWISTS AND TURNS,
AS EVERYONE OF US SOMETIMES LEARNS,
AND MANY A FAILURE COMES ABOUT
WHEN HE MIGHT HAVE WON HAD HE STUCK IT OUT:
DON'T GIVE UP THOUGH THE PACE SEEMS SLOW---
YOU MAY SUCCEED WITH ANOTHER BLOW.

FOR SUCCESS IS FAILURE, TURNED INSIDE OUT---
THE SILVER TINT OF THE CLOUDS OF DOUBT,
AND YOU NEVER CAN TELL HOW CLOSE YOU ARE,
IT MAY BE NEAR WHEN IT SEEMS SO FAR:
SO STICK TO THE FIGHT WHEN YOU'RE HARDEST HIT---
IT'S WHEN THINGS SEEM WORST THAT YOU MUST NOT QUIT.

(ANONYMOUS)



National Federation of the Blind of S. C.
(formerly the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)
119 S. Kilbourne Road
Columbia, S. C. 29205



AM. FDN FOR THE BLIND
15 W. 16TH ST.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011

FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND

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The Palmetto Blind

The Voice of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina



Three hundred attend NFB of SC state convention banquet in Columbia.

August 1980

T H E
P A L M E T T O B L I N D

THE VOICE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA
(FORMERLY THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC.)

EDITOR: DONALD C. CAPPS
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC., IS CHARTERED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO PROMOTE THE SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ALL THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE PALMETTO BLIND IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ITS MEMBERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS AND IS AVAILABLE IN PRINT, OPEN REEL AND AUDIO CASSETTE EDITIONS. THE AUDIO EDITION IS A SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND.

READERS WHO RECEIVE THE OPEN REEL AND AUDIO CASSETTE EDITIONS ARE REQUESTED TO HANDLE THE TAPES WITH CARE AND TO RETURN THEM PROMPTLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHER USERS. IF YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A BAD TAPE, PLEASE LET THE CENTER KNOW BY DROPPING US A NOTE ENCLOSED WITH THE BAD CASSETTE SO THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN TO REMOVE THAT CASSETTE FROM OUR LIBRARY.

IF YOU OR A FRIEND WISH TO REMEMBER THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC., ALSO KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, IN YOUR WILL YOU CAN DO SO BY EMPLOYING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

"I GIVE, DEVISE AND BEQUEATH UNTO THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC., ALSO KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, P. O. BOX 4174, COLUMBIA, S.C. THE SUM OF \$_____ (OR "_____ PERCENT OF MY NET ESTATE", OR "THE FOLLOWING STOCKS AND BONDS:_____") TO BE USED FOR ITS WORTHY PURPOSES ON BEHALF OF BLIND PERSONS AND TO BE HELD AND ADMINISTERED BY DIRECTION OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS."

ON SATURDAY MORNING UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICIALS FORMALLY WELCOMED THE DELEGATES. DONALD CAPPS, PRESIDENT OF THE NFB OF SC REPORTED TO THE CONVENTION. PRESIDENT CAPPS REMINDED THE DELEGATES THAT, WITH THE INCEPTION OF 1980, THE ORGANIZATION HAD ENTERED INTO THE FIFTH DECADE OF SERVICE. A LARGE AUDIENCE INCLUDED MEMBERS WHO HAD JOINED THE ORGANIZATION IN THE 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's AND NEW MEMBERS WHO HAD JOINED THE FEDERATION IN 1980. PRESIDENT CAPPS REPORTED ON SUCH AREAS AS NATIONAL CONVENTION ATTENDANCE, LITIGATION, FUNDRAISING BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, THE JURY BILL, ROCKY BOTTOM, AS WELL AS OTHER SUBJECTS. MRS. PHYLLIS PETTY REPRESENTED THE S. C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND. THERE WERE TWO IMPORTANT PANELS ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BLIND. IN THE AREA OF TECHNOLOGY, THE CONVENTION WAS PLEASED TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM KURZWEIL, TSI, MARYLAND COMPUTER SERVICES AND APOLLO - AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF TECHNOLOGY AT A STATE CONVENTION OF THE BLIND. ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONVENTION WAS THE SATURDAY NOON LUNCHEON. THE LUNCHEON SPEAKER WAS MR. LEN HATHAWAY, ONE OF COLUMBIA'S LEADING RADIO PERSONALITIES, BEING THE MORNING MAN FOR WIS RADIO. MR. HATHAWAY WAS NOT ONLY ENTERTAINING AS HE SPOKE TO MORE THAN 250 PERSONS ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON BUT ALSO DEMONSTRATED GREAT INSIGHT INTO THE PROBLEMS OF THE BLIND. BOTH MR. HATHAWAY AND WIS RADIO ARE VERY MUCH COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND CAMPAIGN IN THE RICHLAND/LEXINGTON COUNTY AREA. TRADITIONALLY NFB OF SC CONVENTIONS ARE BUSY BEING DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE DELEGATES WITH AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE. THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION. THERE WERE MEETINGS GALORE AND THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TIME BETWEEN MEETINGS. THE SATURDAY LUNCHEON WAS FOLLOWED BY A SATURDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM WHICH FEATURED REPORTS BY CHAPTERS AND DIVISIONS AS WELL AS AN APPEARANCE BY MR. STEVE PRINE, STATE LIBRARIAN FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. THE CONVENTION ALSO HEARD FROM EARL AND LEVETT JEFFCOAT OF THE S. C. ASSOCIATION FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. BOTH ARE FEDERATIONISTS WITH MRS. JEFFCOAT SERVING AS SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION. ANOTHER FEDERATIONIST, DAVID STEWART, SPOKE TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE S. C. ASSOCIATION FOR BLIND ATHLETES. DAVID IS A GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT. FOLLOWING THE SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION THE DELEGATES DID TAKE TIME OUT FOR AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT THE HISTORIC HORSESHOE AREA OF THE CAMPUS WHICH ALSO FEATURED A CAKEWALK. THE SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET IS ALWAYS THE REAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONVENTION.

THIS IS TRUE AGAIN THIS YEAR, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DESERVING AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED DURING THE BANQUET. ALSO, PRESIDENT CAPPS PRESENTED A CHARTER TO MRS. GLORIA BOWERS, PRESIDENT OF THE LOW COUNTRY CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC, REPRESENTING THE 19TH CHAPTER OF THE STATE ORGANIZATION BEING ORGANIZED IN APRIL. JERRY WHITTLE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE "ANDY ANDERSON" SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED BY MRS. EARLENE GARDNER ON BEHALF OF THE AIKEN CHAPTER. JERRY PROMPTLY ANNOUNCED TO THE LARGE BANQUET AUDIENCE THAT HE WAS CONTRIBUTING THE \$250.00 SCHOLARSHIP TO THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND IN APPRECIATION OF WHAT THE ORGANIZATION HAD DONE FOR HIM OVER THE YEARS. DORIS BELL, ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE LAURENS COUNTY CHAPTER, WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE PRESIDENT FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE NFB OF SC BEING PRESENTED WITH THE FIRST PRESIDENT'S SITUATION. THIS HIGH LEVEL OF RECOGNITION WILL BE GRANTED ONLY BY THE STATE PRESIDENT WHEN DISTINGUISHED ACCOMPLISHMENT MERITS SUCH RECOGNITION. THEREFORE THE PRESIDENT'S SITUATION IS NOT NECESSARILY AN ANNUAL PRESENTATION. JAMES SIMS, PRESIDENT OF THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER AND MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE ANNUAL "DONALD C. CAPPS AWARD." IN MAKING THE PRESENTATION STATE TREASURER MARSHALL TUCKER TOLD THE LARGE GATHERING THAT JAMES HAD BEEN FAITHFUL TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES HAVING SERVED LOYALLY IN THE FACE OF INTIMIDATION WHEN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE BROOM SHOP MORE THAN A DECADE AGO. IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE, C. A. GATLIN OF CHARLESTON WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE ANNUAL "ASSOCIATE MEMBER AWARD." MRS. SHEILA COMPTON, PRESIDENT OF THE FLORENCE CHAPTER, RECEIVED THE "DR. SAMUEL LAWTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD" OF \$300.00. THE 1980 RECIPIENT OF THE "ELLEN BEACH MACK HOME AWARD" WAS MR. WILLIE BOYD OF GREY COURT. THIS YEAR THE AWARD WAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$776.27. PRESIDENT CAPPS PRESENTED THE ORGANIZATION'S "DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD" TO MR. M. L. OUTZ OF LAURENS. MR. OUTZ WAS SINGLED OUT FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE NFB OF SC AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LAURENS COUNTY CAMPAIGN FOR ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY \$5,000.00. THE BANQUET SPEAKER WAS REP. PAUL CANTRELL OF CHARLESTON. MR. CANTRELL MADE AN EXCELLANT PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE FEDERATION'S SPONSORED LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR EQUAL TREATMENT IN JURY SERVICE BY THE BLIND. REP. CANTRELL DEMONSTRATED A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION AND PLEDGED HIS SUPPORT IN 1981 TO HELP GET THE LEGISLATION ENACTED INTO LAW. FOLLOWING MR. CANTRELL'S FINE ADDRESS BOTH SENATOR HYMAN RUBIN AND REP. JOYCE HEARN SPOKE BRIEFLY TO THE LARGE GROUP PLEDGING THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, THE BLIND PARTICIPATE NORMALLY IN FAMILY LIFE, JOBS, SCHOOLS, CIVIC ACTIVITIES, CHURCHES, GOVERNMENT, RECREATION, ETC., UTILIZING ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGY TO "SEE" WHAT THE SIGHTED PUBLIC SEES AND ARE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZING THOSE SAME TECHNIQUES IN THE COURT ROOM TO EXAMINE DEMONSTRATIVE EVIDENCE IN A JUST AND FAIR MANNER; AND

WHEREAS, PERCEPTION IS NOT LIMITED TO THE VISUAL ACT OF SEEING NOR IS JUDGEMENT UNIQUE TO PERSONS WHO SEE,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED THIS 2ND DAY OF AUGUST, 1980 IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA THAT WE THE BLIND REAFFIRM OUR FIRST CLASS CITIZENSHIP AND ALL THAT IT STANDS FOR AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT WE AS BLIND CITIZENS WILL REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES WHICH WILL GUARANTEE EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF THE BLIND IN JURY SELECTION AND SERVICE,

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WHEREAS, BLIND PERSONS ARE ENGAGED IN HUNDREDS OF CAREERS INCLUDING MANY WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PERFORM WITHOUT SIGHT BY WELL MEANING BUT MISINFORMED SIGHTED PERSONS; AND

WHEREAS, EVERY AVAILABLE AVENUE OF EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE OPENED INSTEAD OF CLOSED TO BLIND PERSONS IN AREAS WHERE COMPETENCE AND ABILITY HAVE BEEN CLEARLY AND UNMISTAKEABLY DEMONSTRATED BY SUCCESSFULL EMPLOYED BLIND PERSONS; AND

WHEREAS, BLIND PERSONS HAVE FUNCTIONED SUCCESSFULLY AND CONTINUE TO FUNCTION SUCCESSFULLY AS PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN ALL PARTS OF THIS COUNTRY;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED THIS 3RD DAY OF AUGUST, 1980 IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA THAT THIS ORGANIZATION WILL TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT BLIND PHYSICAL THERAPISTS WILL EXPERIENCE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THEIR FIELD IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND HAVE SHARED A MUTUALLY REWARDING, LONG STANDING, AND PROGRESSIVE RELATIONSHIP THROUGHOUT THE YEARS; AND

WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA GENUINELY OFFERS ITS SUPPORT AND GOOD WILL TOWARD THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION; AND

WHEREAS, REPRESENTATION OF THE BLIND IN THE POLICY MAKING AFFAIRS OF THE STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE MOST EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAMMING OF A SCHOOL DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF BLIND PERSONS; AND

WHEREAS, THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF REPRESENTATION OF BLIND PERSONS ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED THIS 3RD DAY OF AUGUST, 1980 IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA THAT THE NFB OF SC, WITH THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE S. C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, PURSUE LEGISLATION WHICH WILL INCLUDE BLIND REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE S. C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.

80-4 ,

WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED (NAC) IS A PRIVATE, NONOFFICIAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, BODY WHOSE ALLEGED PURPOSE IS TO IMPROVE THE ASSISTANCE AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO THE BLIND BY MEANS OF STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION; AND

WHEREAS, THE CREDITABILITY OF NAC HAS BEEN IRRETRIEVABLY DIMINISHED BY 1. THE TERMINATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING, 2. NAC'S INABILITY TO DEVELOP INDEPENDENT FUNDING WITHIN THE PRIVATE FUNDING SECTOR, 3. THE WITHDRAWAL OF PREVIOUSLY NAC ACCREDITED AGENCIES FROM NAC ACCREDITATION, 4. THE FAILURE OF APPROXIMATELY 85% OF ELEGIBLE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO PURSUE NAC ACCREDITATION, 5. EXTENSIVE AND OUTSPOKEN DEMONSTRATION AND DISAPPROVAL BY THE BLIND COMMUNITY WHICH HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED MEANINGFUL INPUT INTO NAC'S POLICY MAKING OPERATIONS, AND WHO HAVE ENDURED SUBSTANDARD SERVICES FROM NAC ACCREDITED AGENCIES; AND

WHEREAS, SOUTH CAROLINA HAS NO AGENCY, SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, STATE SUPPORTED PROGRAMS OR PRIVATE AGENCIES ACCREDITED BY NAC WHICH REFLECTS SOUND JUDGEMENT AND RESPONSIVE ATTENTION TO THE VOICE OF THE ORGANIZED BLIND OF THE STATE BY OFFICIALS OF THE STATE IN WORK WITH THE BLIND; AND

WHEREAS, THE S. C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND THROUGH ITS OFFICIALS HAS RECENTLY AFFIRMED THAT NAC ACCREDITATION IS NOT BEING PURSUED BY THE S. C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, EITHER BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OR OFFICIALS OF THE SCHOOL;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED THIS 3RD DAY OF AUGUST, 1980 IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA THAT THIS ORGANIZATION GO ON RECORD IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THE DECISION OF THOSE AGENCIES, SCHOOLS, AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH REJECT NAC - A SELF-APPOINTED GROUP OF MISINFORMED, MISDIRECTED, PATERNALISTIC, KEEPERS WHO PROFESS TO WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE BLIND, BUT WHO IN REALITY HURT THE BLIND!

PRESIDENT CAPPS SHARES A LETTER

8-3-80

DEAR DON,

HOW ON EARTH DO I THANK YOU FOR HONORING ME IN SUCH AN EXCEPTIONAL MANNER. I NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS HUMBLE, BUT THAT WAS INDEED A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE TO STAND BEFORE THE CONVENTION AND RECEIVE SUCH LOVE AND APPRECIATION. I HAVE BEEN REPAID TENFOLD FOR EVERYTHING I HAVE EVER DONE FOR THE BLIND WITHOUT THE AWARD. SO VERY OFTEN I BECOME DISCOURAGED AND TIRED, ESPECIALLY SINCE I HAVE BEEN ILL, BUT IT TAKES ONLY A MESSAGE THAT SOMEONE NEEDS HELP AND THE ADRENALINE STARTS TO RUN AGAIN. THE INEQUITIES THAT HAVE BEEN BEAMED UPON THE BLIND ARE REALLY ALL IT SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF TO PUT US ON THE RUN. I HAVE NEVER EXPECTED OR WANTED RECOGNITION FOR WHAT I DO, BUT NOW THAT I HAVE THIS HONOR, I SURELY AM PLEASED. THE NFB ARE FAMILY TO BOTH BOB AND ME. WE, LIKE YOU AND BETTY, HAVE DEDICATED OUR LIVES TO GOD, TO EACH OTHER, OUR FAMILY, AND THE BLIND. WE ARE HONORED TO BE A PART OF THE NFB. WE ALL GRUMBLE AND COMPLAIN WHEN WE ARE DOWN, BUT DEEP INSIDE, WE WOULD NOT BE TO HAPPY WITHOUT THIS. TO HAVE YOU EVEN THINK OF ME FOR SUCH AN HONOR IS OVERWHELMING. YOU COME CLOSE TO CALLING E.M.S. I NEARLY FAINTED!! IF I HAD FIGURED IT TO BE ME ANY SOONER, I WOULD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO STAND IT.

I'M SURE BETTY HAD HER PART IN THIS TOO, SO BETTY ALL THIS IS FOR YOU TOO! THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HIGHLIGHTS OF MY LIFE, I TOLD BOB I WAS MORE EXCITED ABOUT THIS THAN HIS PROPOSAL, COURSE I EXPECTED THAT. AGAIN JUST THANK YOU. I CAN THINK OF NO WORD OR WORDS TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE AND LOVE. WE LOVE BOTH OF YOU AND THE CHILDREN AND YOU ARE DEAR TO US,

EXCITEDLY,
DORIS

AN ERA ENDS

ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH AN ERA WHICH BEGAN 23 YEARS AGO IN 1957 CAME TO AN END. IT WAS IN 1957 THAT THE THEN AURORA CLUB ESTABLISHED A CONCESSION STAND IN THE RICHLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE. IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THE ONE YEAR OLD STATE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD TO BORROW SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS FROM WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE BLIND OF AUGUSTA, GEORGIA TO FINANCE THE ENTERPRISE. FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES THE CONCESSION STAND PROVIDED A LIVELYHOOD FOR NO FEWER THAN THREE DIFFERENT OPERATORS. FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS ARCHIE NUNNERY WAS THE OPERATOR. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY RUBY BRYANT. HOWEVER, FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS McDONALD HANCOCK HAS OPERATED THE STAND. McDONALD MADE MANY FRIENDS BOTH FOR HIMSELF AND FOR THE ORGANIZATION DURING THIS THIRTEEN YEAR PERIOD. THE AURORA CLUB AND THE NFB OF SC HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD OF THIS PARTICULAR SERVICE ESPECIALLY SINCE IT REPRESENTED ONE OF THE EARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF A STATE ORGANIZATION OF THE BLIND WHICH WAS SMALL AT THE TIME STRUGGLING IN ITS INFANCY. THE NFB OF SC IS ALSO PROUD OF THE THREE OPERATORS AND ESPECIALLY McDONALD WHO OPERATED THE BUSINESS FOR MORE THAN A DOZEN OF THE 23 YEARS THE CONCESSION STAND WAS IN OPERATION. THE PALMETTO BLIND IS PLEASED TO SHARE WITH ITS READERS THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPER ARTICLE AND LETTER. THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 8TH EDITION OF THE COLUMBIA RECORD. PRESIDENT CAPPS SHARED McDONALD'S LETTER OF JULY 25TH WITH CONVENTION DELEGATES IN HIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1980. THE NFB OF SC EXTENDS SINCERE BEST WISHES TO McDONALD FOR A VERY HAPPY AND REWARDING RETIREMENT AFTER A MOST PRODUCTIVE FIFTY YEAR CAREER.

COURT CROWD LOSING BEST "PICKER-UPPER"

WHEN THE RICHLAND COUNTY COURTS MOVE INTO NEW QUARTERS IN THE JUDICIAL CENTER LATER THIS MONTH, SOMEONE WILL BE MISSING. AFTER TODAY' McDONALD HANCOCK - THE CHEERFUL DISPENSER OF COKES, PEPSIS, FRUIT JUICES AND OTHER "PICKER-UPPERS" THE COURTHOUSE CROWD SEEKS TO GET THROUGH THE DAY -WILL BE GONE FROM THE REFRESHMENT STAND ON THE FIRST FLOOR.

MANY BELIEVE THAT HANCOCK WITH HIS SMILING FACE AND WARM GREETINGS, WAS THE BEST PICKER-UPPER OF ALL. AFTER 50 YEARS AS A WORKING MAN, HANCOCK HAS DECIDED "A MAN DOESN'T HAVE TO SPEND HIS WHOLE LIFE WORKING." BUT THE 73-YEAR-OLD HANCOCK DOES NOT EQUATE RETIREMENT WITH LEISURE. HE FIGURES HE HAS TWO YEARS OF WORK AHEAD OF HIM "TO CLEAN UP THE BUSHES AND THE BRIARS" AROUND HIS HOME AT 3220 LINCOLN STREET. "AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS' GROUP AT EARLEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH HAS AN EYE ON ME TO PLAY THE PIANO. THEY WANT TO SING AND THE CHURCH ORGANIST TEACHES ON WEEKDAYS. THEY'VE GOT THEIR FINGERS POINTED AT ME," HE SAID WITH A CHUCKLE. HANCOCK DID NOT BEGIN PLAYING THE PIANO VOLUNTARILY. "IT WAS FORCED ON ME AT CEDAR SPRINGS (THE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND)," HE SAID. "IF THEY FOUND OUT YOU HAD AN INCLINATION TO SOMETHING THEY MADE YOU DO IT. THE MUSIC PROFESSOR GOT HOLD OF ME AND MADE ME DO IT." "I'VE BEEN PLAYING SINCE I WAS 8 YEARS OLD. I USED TO PLAY THE CLASSICS AND HAD TO MEMORIZE THEM. NOW I PLAY BY EAR. IT'S A LOT EASIER THAN FIGURING OUT ALL THE NOTES." ONE THING HANCOCK DOESN'T EXPECT TO DO IS FISH. "MY SON TRIED TO GET ME INTERESTED, BUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH INTEREST. THE OTHER NIGHT EVEN WITH MY SON AND ANOTHER MAN HELPING ME, I STILL DIDN'T GET ANYTHING." WITH ONLY 10 PERCENT VISION IN ONE EYE, HANCOCK CAN SEE A TELEVISION PICTURE IF HE GETS CLOSE ENOUGH BUT HE CANNOT READ ANY WORDS DISPLAYED ON THE TUBE. "I GO TO SLEEP IN FRONT OF IT, I GET TALKING BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND SOMETIMES I GO TO SLEEP LISTENING TO THEM," HE SAID. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A WATCHMAKER'S GLASS ATTACHED TO HIS GLASSES, "I CAN READ THE PAPER PRETTY GOOD," HANCOCK GRADUATED FROM CEDAR SPRINGS IN 1926. HE WORKED THERE FOR A WHILE, WENT TO COMMERCE, GA., TO WORK FOR TWO YEARS, WORKED FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND FOR 19 YEARS, WAS ASSISTANT GARDENER AT PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL FOR 12 YEARS AND HAS RUN THE REFRESHMENT CONCESSION STAND AT THE COURTHOUSE FOR THE LAST 13 YEARS. "I'VE ENJOYED THIS PLACE UP HERE MORE THAN ANY PLACE I'VE BEEN IN MY LIFE," HE SAID. "THEY'RE A GOOD GROUP OF PEOPLE UP HERE AT THE COURTHOUSE. THEY ARE GOOD PEOPLE TO WORK WITH. THEY HELP YOU. "MAYBE I COULD HAVE GONE UP THERE (THE JUDICIAL CENTER) BUT I DIDN'T EVEN ASK FOR IT. MAYBE THEY WANTED SOMEONE YOUNGER. WITH MY GOOD HEALTH I COULD GO ON SEVERAL MORE YEARS. BUT THE CHILDREN ARE UP AND GROWN NOW AND I HAVE SOCIAL SECURITY," STATE LAW REQUIRES JURORS NAMES' TO BE DRAWN FROM THE BOX BY EITHER A BLIND PERSON OR A CHILD, SO DRAWING JURORS WAS A CHORE HANCOCK WAS CALLED ON TO DO. "THE REGULAR JURY SELECTION THAT TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES - NOW I ENJOYED THAT, I REALLY DID. "BUT THOSE DEATH PENALTY CASES WHERE THEY ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS AND REPEAT THEMSELVES SO MUCH - I GET REAL UNDONE.

I TOLD THEM I WOULD RESIGN AND TEND TO MY BUSINESS. I GOT OUT OF PATIENCE," HANCOCK SAID. HE SAID HE WILL MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR JURY SELECTION EVEN THOUGH HE IS OFFICIALLY RETIRED. HANCOCK HAS BEEN BLIND SINCE HE WAS 8 MONTHS OLD AND SOMETIMES IS DISCOURAGED BY THE HANDICAP, HE SAID. "OH, LOTS OF TIMES I'VE BEEN DISCOURAGED. I SURE HAVE. I COULDN'T DO THINGS THE WAY PEOPLE WANTED BECAUSE I COULDN'T SEE," HE SAID. AT CEDAR SPRINGS, HANCOCK WAS SUPERVISOR OF A GROUP OF ADVANCED BOYS. "THEY WERE TO CLEAN UP THEIR ROOMS. THEY COULDN'T SEE IF THE ROOMS WERE CLEAN AND I COULDN'T EITHER. "I WISH I HAD STAYED THERE AND BATTLED IT OUT, BUT I DISPLEASED THEM SO MUCH. I COULDN'T SEE AND I COULDN'T DO ANY BETTER. I QUIT IN 1932 AND WENT WITHOUT WORK FOR A GOOD BIT," HANCOCK SAID. THERE WERE ALSO DIFFICULTIES AT PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL. "THEY WANTED ME TO PREPARE A FLAT AREA FOR PLANTING ROSES. I COULDN'T GET THE GROUND LEVEL. BLINDNESS BRINGS A LOT OF DISCOURAGEMENT TO YOU," HE SAID. HANCOCK SAID PEOPLE HELPED OUT WHEN HE GOT DISCOURAGED AND FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS THE DISCOURAGEMENT HAS EASED OFF. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO RETIREMENT FOR SIX OR SEVEN YEARS, EVER SINCE "THEY STARTED TALKING ABOUT THE NEW COURTHOUSE,"

JULY 25, 1980

DEAR DON,

AS YOU ARE STATE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY REMARKS TO YOU. THE LAST THIRTEEN YEARS HAVE BEEN MOST PLEASANT FOR ME. I WANT TO THANK YOU, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF 1967, FOR HAVING BEEN SO KIND TO ME, BY GIVING ME THE RICHLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE STAND TO MAKE A LIVING. THE CUSTOMERS WERE MOST KIND TO ME, AND THE AURORA CLUB OF S. C. WERE VERY KIND TOO. IN MY WORKING LIFE, I HAD FOUR YEARS AT CEDAR SPRING SCHOOL, TWO YEARS IN GEORGIA ON RELIEF, NINETEEN YEARS AT THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND OF S. C., TWELVE YEARS AT THE PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL AND THIRTEEN YEARS WITH THE FEDERATION STAND, WHICH WERE MOST PLEASANT. THAT COMPLETES FIFTY YEARS. I WANT TO AGAIN THANK YOU, AND THE BOARD FOR GIVING ME THIS LOVELY PRESENT.

YOUR SINCERE MEMBER,

McDONALD HANCOCK

OGLESBY HONORED

THE SPARTANBURG CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA RECENTLY HONORED THEIR PRESIDENT, ROBERT L. OGLESBY, BY PRESENTING A \$5,000.00 CHECK TO THE STATE BOARD OF THE NFB OF SC TO BE USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROBERT LEE OGLESBY COTTAGE AT ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND.

OGLESBY, WHO IS BLIND, IS DIRECTOR OF THE SPARTANBURG YMCA HEALTH CLUB AND HAS TAUGHT THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE TO BLIND STUDENTS FOR A DOZEN YEARS. A FORMER NFB OF SC STATE OFFICER, OGLESBY IS RENOWNED FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE BLIND IN SPARTANBURG AND THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA. IN 1977 HE WAS AWARDED THE SERVICE TO MANKIND AWARD BY THREE SPARTANBURG SERTOMA CLUBS. OGLESBY PRESENTLY SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF THE CEDAR SPRING BLIND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND SERVES AS A CLOSE ADVISOR TO THE STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND. A STATEWIDE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO RAISE CONSTRUCTION COSTS ON THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND WHICH IS LOCATED IN PICKENS COUNTY IS BEING CHAIRED IN SPARTANBURG COUNTY BY STEVE SATTERFIELD WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CO-CHAIRMAN BILL SIRMON AND DAVID DENNIS. UPON COMPLETION ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND WILL INCLUDE RECREATION AND EXERCISE FACILITIES, HOUSING, KITCHEN AND DINING ROOMS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICES, A LIBRARY, A SWIMMING POOL AND MORE. THE CAMP IS OPEN FREE OF CHARGE YEAR ROUND TO LEGALLY BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS. INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE NFB OF SC, 119 SOUTH KILBOURNE ROAD, COLUMBIA, S.C. 29205. (254-3777)

105 SOUTH CAROLINIANS ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTION

A RECORD BREAKING 105 SOUTH CAROLINIANS ATTENDED THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS THE FIRST WEEK IN JULY. SOUTH CAROLINA RANKED NUMBER 3 IN ATTENDANCE BEING ONLY THREE BEHIND THE HOST AFFILIATE MINNESOTA WHICH RANKED NUMBER 1 WITH 108 REGISTERED DELEGATES. NEIGHBORING STATE IOWA BOASTED 107 DELEGATES. LAST YEAR AT MIAMI BEACH SOUTH CAROLINA WAS NUMBER ONE IN ATTENDANCE WITH 96 DELEGATES. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT SOUTH CAROLINA CAME MIGHTY CLOSE TO BEING NUMBER 1 AGAIN AS ONLY 3 DELEGATES SEPERATED THREE TOP STATES. THE NFB OF SC AND ITS AFFILIATES WORKED EXTREMELY HARD IN PROMOTING AN ATTENDANCE IN EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED. IT WAS AN OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT. THE MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION WAS A VERY GOOD ONE. AN EXCELLANT SPIRIT PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK LONG CONVENTION. THE PROGRAMS WERE INFORMATIVE. SOUTH CAROLINIANS PARTICIPATED PROMINENTLY IN VARIOUS CONVENTION FUNCTIONS. BOB BELL AND TOOTSIE GATLIN WERE THE OFFICIAL AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES. DR. KENNETH JERNIGAN, NFB PRESIDENT, PRESENTED THE BANQUET ADDRESS WHICH DEALT WITH CONTEMPORARY ISSUES VITALLY EFFECTING THE LIVES OF THE BLIND. DURING THE CONVENTION BANQUET THE PRESTIGIOUS NEWELL PERRY AWARD WAS PRESENTED BY 1ST VICE PRESIDENT, DONALD CAPPS. THE 105 SOUTH CAROLINIANS ATTENDING THE MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION REPRESENTED ALL AREAS OF THE STATE WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE 21 CHAPTERS AND DIVISIONS OF THE NFB OF SC HAVING REPRESENTATIVES.

THE PALMETTO BLIND WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO COVER THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN DETAIL AS IT WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE BRILLE MONITOR. HOWEVER, THE NFB OF SC BELIEVES IN A CONCEPT OF FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL LEVELS, NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL. DURING THE CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS, SOUTH CAROLINIANS DEMONSTRATED THEIR NATIONAL SUPPORT AS MANY ENROLLED IN THE PAC PLAN. PRESENTLY MORE THAN 50 SOUTH CAROLINIANS ARE PARTICIPATING IN PAC GIVING. UNDOUBTEDLY THE MORE THAN 100 SOUTH CAROLINIANS WHO ATTENDED THE MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION TOOK HOME WITH THEM A GREAT DEAL OF INSPIRATION AND KNOWLEDGE WHICH WILL BE HELPFUL IN FURTHERING PROGRAMS FOR THE BLIND IN OUR STATE.

MR. N. F. WALKER HONORED

MR. N. F. WALKER, WHO SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE S. C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, WAS HONORED ON TUESDAY EVENING JUNE 24 IN SPARTANBURG. A NUMBER OF DIGNITARIES WERE ON HAND FOR THE IMPRESSIVE OCCASION INCLUDING MRS. NANCY THURMOND. IN ADDITION TO MRS. THURMOND, DR. CHARLES WILLIAMS, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION ADDRESSED THE GATHERING. MR. WALKER WAS PRESENTED WITH A NUMBER OF AWARDS AND PLAQUES. BEGINNING IN 1849 WHEN THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED AN INTERESTING HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL EXTENDING TO THE PRESENT TIME WAS GIVEN. SEVERAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WERE REPRESENTED INCLUDING MRS. MAXINE BOWLES, COMMISSIONER OF THE S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND, DONALD CAPPS, PRESIDENT OF THE NFB OF SC AND BOB OGLESBY, PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

1980 WHITE CANE WEEK CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFUL

WHITE CANE WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA WAS ESTABLISHED MORE THAN 2 DECADES AGO IN THE LATE 1950'S. EACH YEAR THE THIRD WEEK IN MAY, MAY 15 - 21, IS SET ASIDE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION CONCERNING THE TRUE NATURE OF BLINDNESS AND FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT. THE CAMPAIGN HAS STEADILY GROWN THROUGHOUT THE YEARS AND HAS REACHED THOUSANDS OF SOUTH CAROLINIANS. THIS YEAR THE NFB OF SC OFFICIALS CONFERRED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE NEWSPAPER IN COLUMBIA IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL FEATURE ON BLINDNESS, WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT IS NOT. THE SUNDAY EDITION OF THE STATE HAS A VERY POPULAR SECTION CALLED THE STATE MAGAZINE. IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE THE NFB OF SC WAS PLEASED THAT THE MAGAZINE SECTION OF THE SUNDAY, JUNE 1 EDITION FEATURED A NUMBER OF BLIND PERSONS. THE COVERAGE WAS TRULY OUTSTANDING AND REPRESENTED A FINE PUBLIC EDUCATION FEATURE CONCERNING BLINDNESS OF WHICH THE NFB OF SC IS PROUD. THE STATE NEWSPAPER IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR THIS FEATURE. THE SUNDAY STATE REACHES ABOUT 130,000 PERSONS AND THE MAGAZINE SECTION IS WIDELY READ BEING VERY POPULAR.

STATE CONVENTION ADOPTS CAMP RULES

THE STATE CONVENTION ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING CAMP RULES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO AID IN THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND. MRS. MARY McMILLAN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT THE CAMP WHO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCING THE RULES WILL APPRECIATE THE COOPERATION OF EVERYONE.

REGULATIONS AND RULES

1. EACH GROUP RESERVING OSTERNECK COTTAGE WILL ASSUME TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDITION OF THE COTTAGE UPON LEAVING. THE PREMISES SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY CLEANED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE AND SHOULD BE LEFT IN THE SAME GOOD CONDITION AS UPON ARRIVAL.
2. THE KITCHEN SHOULD BE CLEANED AFTER EACH USE.
3. RETURN ALL DRINK BOTTLES TO THE DRINK MACHINE CRATES BESIDE THE DRINK MACHINE.
4. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.
5. LIGHTS OUT AT 12:00 MIDNIGHT FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF ALL WHO ARE OCCUPYING THE COTTAGE.
6. ALL LONG DISTANCE CALLS SHOULD BE CHARGED TO HOME PHONE NUMBERS OR TO PERSONAL ACCOUNTS. NO ONE SHOULD CHARGE PERSONAL CALLS TO THE CAMP!
7. EACH PERSON OR GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMOVAL OF TRASH AND GARBAGE FROM THE PREMISES UPON LEAVING.
8. CHECK WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES.
9. THE TELEPHONE WILL BE ANSWERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT ALL TIMES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

REMINDERS

1. EACH PERSON OR GROUP SHOULD SUPPLY THEIR OWN FOOD AND UTILIZE THE CAMP'S FOOD PREPARATION FACILITIES. KITCHEN APPLIANCES AND UTENSILS ARE IN THE KITCHENS FOR USE BY ALL.
2. EACH PERSON WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING HIS/HER OWN LINENS, TOWELS, BLANKETS, SOAP AND OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS. PILLOWS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE COTTAGE.
3. PAPER AND CLEANING SUPPLIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE UPSTAIRS CLOSET IN THE HALL OF THE OLDER PART OF THE COTTAGE.
4. CHECK WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ABOUT LOST AND FOUND ITEMS.
5. THE NFB OF SC WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INJURIES WHICH OCCUR WHILE AT THE CAMP BUT WILL RENDER EVERY POSSIBLE SERVICE.
6. LEAVE THE NAMES AND OTHER REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT VISITORS WITH MARY McMILLAN, CAMP ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.
7. ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE CONSISTANT WITH THE PHILOSOPHY AND IDEALS OF THE NFB OF SC.

8. RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND,
119 SOUTH KILBOURNE ROAD, COLUMBIA, S.C. 29205, PHONE 254-3777.

LIVING IN A "SIGHTED" WORLD REQUIRES ADJUSTMENTS FOR EVERYONE

FROM THE LANCASTER NEWS AUGUST 1, 1980

REGGIE BAKER SAT IN A CHAIR IN THE CORNER OF HIS LIVING ROOM, HIS BLACK LABRADOR RETRIEVER BY HIS SIDE, HIS TWO CHILDREN PLAYING AROUND HIM. IN HIS KITCHEN SEVERAL VOLUMES OF BOOKS LAY NEATLY IN A ROW ON A TABLE AND OTHERS WERE STACKED ON A NEARBY SHELF. A LARGE MOUNTED BASS HUNG ON THE WALL ABOVE. "WE NEED TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE," HE SAID. "WE NEED TO TALK TO THEM MORE." BAKER, 30, WAS NOT SPEAKING ABOUT PUBLIC APATHY IN GENERAL. HE WAS SPEAKING ABOUT THE PUBLIC'S REACTION TO BLINDNESS, SOMETHING HE HAS LEARNED ABOUT FIRST-HAND DURING THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF. DIABETES CAUSED BAKER TO LOSE NOT ONLY HIS SIGHT BUT BOTH OF HIS EYES AS WELL. HE NOW HAS A PAIR OF GLASS EYES HE CAN USE AS EASILY AS IF THEY WERE CONTACT LENSES. "I WANTED TO GET BLUE EYES," BAKER, A TALL BROWN-HAIRED MAN, JOKED. "BUT MY WIFE WOULDN'T GO FOR THAT SO I GOT BROWN ONES LIKE I HAD." BAKER JOKED ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS WITH BLINDNESS, BUT TO HIM BLINDNESS ITSELF IS NO JOKE. BUT IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A BURDEN EITHER, HE SAID. "AS A BLIND PERSON, I FEEL IT IS MY DUTY TO ADJUST TO LIVING IN A SIGHTED WORLD" HE SAID. "BUT IT'S YOUR DUTY, AS A SIGHTED PERSON, TO ACCEPT SOME OF THE THINGS I HAVE TO DO DIFFERENTLY TO MAKE THAT ADJUSTMENT." THE LABRADOR RETRIEVER, LICORICE, HELPS BAKER GET ALONG IN A SIGHTED WORLD, HE SAID. THEY GO ALMOST EVERYWHERE TOGETHER. "HE'LL TAKE ON ANYTHING," BAKER SAID OF HIS DOG. "HE DIDN'T LIKE CHURCH PEWS AT FIRST, BUT I BROKE HIM OF THAT." THE BOOKS ON THE SHELF IN THE KITCHEN HELP HIM. THE 18 VOLUMES LINED UP ON THE TABLE WERE THE BIBLE. THE ONES STACKED ON THE SHELF WERE COPIES OF READER'S DIGEST. A CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER NEARBY WAS SUPPLIED BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, BAKER SAID, AND HE CAN GET TAPES OF ALMOST ANYTHING, INCLUDING PLAYBOY MAGAZINE. HIS FRIENDS ARE HIS BIGGEST HELP, THOUGH. PEOPLE LIKE BARRY BROWN, "BARRY'S REAL GOOD. HE DOESN'T OVERCOMPENSATE WITH ME ABOUT MY BLINDNESS," BAKER SAID. THE TWO HAVE GONE FISHING TOGETHER AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK SINCE BAKER LOST HIS SIGHT. "PEOPLE WONDER HOW I CAN FISH WHEN I CAN'T SEE," BAKER SAID. "WELL BARRY WILL TELL ME HOW FAR WE ARE FROM THE BANK AND HOW FAR I NEED TO CAST MY LINE. USUALLY I CAN COME WITHIN AN INCH OR TWO OF THE SHORELINE." BAKER ALSO DEPENDS ON HIS WIFE, KAY. "SOMETIMES I THINK I RUN HER TO DEATH, GETTING HER TO DRIVE ME HERE OR THERE", HE SAID. KAY WORKS TWO DAYS A WEEK AND WHEN SHE'S GONE BAKER LOOKS AFTER HIS TWO CHILDREN, CHRIS AND DANIELLE. BAKER, A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF KANAWHA, DOESN'T WORK NOW BUT HE'S LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB.

HE HAS BECOME ACTIVE IN THE FEDERATION OF THE BLIND AND WAS ELECTED AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE LANCASTER CHAPTER AT THE LAST MEETING. HIS GOAL IS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS BLIND PEOPLE FACE AND HOW THEY CAN BE HELPED. "IF YOU GIVE PEOPLE A CHANCE, THEY'LL HELP YOU," HE SAID. "BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO ASK FOR THAT HELP." HE ALSO WANTS TO HELP THE BLIND. "I WANT TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THERE IS HELP AVAILABLE TO THEM, FREE OF CHARGE," HE SAID. BAKER SAID THERE ARE ABOUT 200 VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS IN LANCASTER COUNTY. AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, 13 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT, SIX OF THEM WERE BLIND. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IN GETTING PEOPLE TO THE MEETING IS TRANSPORTATION. BAKER SAID HE HOPES TO BEGIN WORKING WITH THE LIONS CLUB, AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS CONCERNED WITH SIGHT. "WE HOPE WE CAN GET SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS TO DRIVE BLIND PEOPLE TO OUR MEETINGS," HE SAID. THE FEDERATION OF THE BLIND MEETS ON THE FIRST THURSDAY IN EVERY MONTH AT 7 P.M. AT THE STANDARD SAVINGS BUILDING ON HIGHWAY 200 NORTH. ANYONE, BLIND OR SIGHTED, CAN ATTEND.

ASSEMBLY HALL NAMED IN MEMORY OF DR. LAWTON

THE RECENT CONVENTION OF THE NFB OF SC UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A MOTION PROVIDING FOR THE ASSEMBLY HALL AT ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND TO BE KNOWN HEREAFTER AS THE SAM M. LAWTON ASSEMBLY HALL. IT IS ONE OF ONLY TWO OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDINGS AT THE CAMPSITE WHICH WILL BE RESTORED, THE OTHER BEING THE OLD DINING HALL. THE SAM M. LAWTON ASSEMBLY HALL IS LOCATED IN A BEAUTIFUL AREA OF THE CAMPSITE WITH A SMALL LAKE BEING JUST TO THE REAR OF THE HALL. ARCHITECTS HAVE ADVISED THE NFB OF SC THAT THE ASSEMBLY HALL IS STRUCTURALLY SOUND. HOWEVER, IN THE FUTURE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE LAWTON FAMILY THE SAM M. LAWTON ASSEMBLY HALL WILL BE REFURBISHED AND APPROPRIATELY RENOVATED. THE SAM M. LAWTON ASSEMBLY HALL HAS APPROXIMATELY 2500 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE. IT WILL BE USED FOR ALL TYPES OF MEETINGS INCLUDING SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES. THOSE WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REFURBISHING AND RENOVATION OF THE SAM M. LAWTON ASSEMBLY HALL MAY DO SO BY MAKING CHECKS TO ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND - SAM M. LAWTON ASSEMBLY HALL FUND. DR. LAWTON FOUNDED THE NFB OF SC KNOWN AS THE AURORA CLUB IN 1944 THE YEAR OF ITS INCEPTION.

DEAF, BLIND SCHOOL APPOINTS HYER

FROM THE STATE JULY 11, 1980

DR. RICHARD E. HYER, JR., SUPERINTENDENT OF THE GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND IN MACON, WILL ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY OF S. C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, BLIND AND MULTI-HANDICAPPED AT SPARTANBURG IN MID-AUGUST. THE APPOINTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED THURSDAY AT THE SCHOOL IN CEDAR SPRING WILL NO ALLUSION

TO PROTESTS BY ALUMNI WHO ADVOCATED SELECTION OF A DEAF OR BLIND SUCCESSOR TO N.F. WALKER. WALKER RETIRED JULY 3. HE IS THE GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE FOUNDER OF THE SCHOOL AND FIFTH IN HIS FAMILY TO HOLD ITS PRESIDENCY. THE SCHOOL'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS SCHEDULED A PROTEST RALLY AT THE STATE HOUSE SATURDAY MORNING AND IS SEEKING RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, WHICH NAMED HYER TO THE POST. NONE OF THE MEMBERS ARE DEAF OR BLIND. SOME 40 PERSONS APPLIED FOR THE VACANCY AT CEDAR SPRING, AND THE SEVEN FINALISTS INCLUDED ONE MAN WHO IS DEAF AND ONE WHO IS BLIND. THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUPPORTED THE DEAF APPLICANT, A SOUTH CAROLINIAN NOW HEADING A SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF IN PENNSYLVANIA. HYER HAS 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE AT UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LEVELS IN WORK WITH HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, INCLUDING WORK AS A TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR AND GUIDANCE COUNSELOR. HE HAS ALSO BEEN A CONSULTANT IN STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SUPERVISOR OF TEACHERS OF THE VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED. HE HAS WORKED WITH THE DEAF, BLIND AND MULTI-HANDICAPPED - "THE THREE AREAS OF EXCEPTIONALITY SERVED AT THE S. C. SCHOOL," THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SAID. AT THE GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND, HYER HAS HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR A TWO-CAMPUS SCHOOL WITH 163 EMPLOYEES AND 200 STUDENTS. THE S. C. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LISTED AMONG HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN GEORGIA ACQUISITION OF \$2.5 MILLION FOR NEW FACILITIES. HYER IS A NATIVE OF JACKSONVILLE, FLA., AND HOLDS DEGREES FROM MERCER UNIVERSITY, WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA.

NFB OF SC OPPOSES FORMATION OF COALITION BY SUZANNE BRIDGES

THE FOLLOWING POSITION STATEMENT AND RESOLUTION WERE READ AT A RECENT 504 TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HELD IN COLUMBIA. MEMBERS OF THE NFB OF SC ATTENDING THE PROGRAM VOICED STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE FORMATION OF A COALITION OF ALL HANDICAPS WHICH WOULD SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

THE NFB OF SC IS THE VOICE OF THE ORGANIZED BLIND IN SOUTH CAROLINA. IT MUST BE INDEPENDENT IN ACTION. IT MUST BE INDEPENDENT IN APPEARANCE. FROM ITS STRENGTH IT SHOULD COOPERATE WITH OTHERS; FROM ITS WEAKNESS IT SHOULD NEVER SEEK COMBINATION AND COALITION. WE, MEMBERS OF THE NFB OF SC, ARE OPPOSED TO UMBRELLA AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS. THE NEEDS OF THE BLIND ARE NOT THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE DEAF, THE ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED, THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED, OR OTHERS. WE HAVE ADVANCED FROM THE ALMSHOUSE WHERE THE BLIND, ALCOHOLIC, SICK, AND OTHERS WERE THROWN TOGETHER. WE HAVE FOUGHT FOR AND ESTABLISHED OUR SEPERATE STATE AGENCY WHICH CONCURS IN OUR POSITION ON COALITION. AS REPORTED IN THE MALLAS REPORT IN 1975 OUR STATE AGENCY IN CONJUNCTION OTHER STATES WITH SEPERATE PROGRAMS HAS EXPERIENCED SUPERIOR RECORDS OF REHABILITATION ACHIEVEMENT AND LOWER PER UNIT COST OF SERVICE.

WE HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD TO ESTABLISH AN ORGANIZATION WHICH MEETS OUR UNIQUE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS. WE HAVE MANDATED THROUGH NATIONAL RESOLUTION 74-A THAT WE WILL NOT JOIN COALITIONS.

WHEREAS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE BLIND HAVE DISTINCTIVE NEEDS FOR SERVICES: NOT TO BE CONFUSED OR SHUFFLED IN WITH THE NEEDS OF OTHER MINORITIES, THE DEAF, THE ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED, THE CEREBRAL PALSID, OR SIMILAR DISABILITY GROUPS; AND

WHEREAS THE RECORD OF SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN WORK WITH THE BLIND HAS BEEN MEASURED BY OUR PROGRESS IN GAINING RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS AND UNIQUE IDENTITY OF THOSE WHO ARE BLIND; AND

WHEREAS OUR OWN SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN ADVANCING THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND HAVE SERVED AS PRECEDENTS AND MODELS FOR EQUIVALENT GAINS BY OTHER GROUPS SUCH AS THE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED, AND THE AGED; AND

WHEREAS EFFORTS STILL PERSIST TO REDUCE OR CONFUSE THE SPECIAL IDENTITY AND NEEDS OF THE BLIND BY MINGLING THEM IN WITH OTHER GROUPS FOR PURPOSES OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE OR THE ADVANTAGE OF OTHERS; AND

WHEREAS AMONG THESE EFFORTS IS A WELL-INTENTIONED BUT MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO MERGE THE INTERESTS OF THE ORGANIZED BLIND WITH THOSE OF OTHER MINORITIES, THE DEAF, THE ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED, THE CEREBRAL PALSID, AND SIMILAR DISABILITY GROUPS, IN COALITIONS FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES; AND

WHEREAS THE ORGANIZED BLIND HAVE ONLY THE BEST WISHES AND HOPES FOR THE WELFARE AND GOALS OF OTHER MINORITIES, THE DEAF, THE ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED, THE CEREBRAL PALSID, AND SIMILAR DISABILITY GROUPS; BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE CAN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS; ON ONE HAND, RETAIN OUR DISTINCTIVE INDEPENDENCE, IDENTITY, AND INTEGRITY-AVOIDING CONFUSION WITH OTHERS-AND ON THE OTHER HAND, COALESCE WITH SUCH GROUPS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED THIS 5TH DAY OF JULY, 1974, IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND BE INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS TO ALL INTERESTED GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HANDICAPPED THE GOODWILL AND BEST WISHES OF THE FEDERATION AND ITS FIRM DECISION TO RETAIN ITS SEPARATE IDENTITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION IN ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NO STATE OR LOCAL AFFILIATE OF THE FEDERATION SHALL ENTER INTO ANY COALITION OR ASSOCIATION WITH ANY OTHER MINORITIES, THE DEAF, THE ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED, THE CEREBRAL PALSID, OR SIMILAR DISABILITY GROUPS.

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS CAN AND DO TAKE THE WORST PROBLEMS OF ANY OF US WHO ARE "HANDICAPPED" AND THINK THEY ARE THE PROBLEMS OF ALL OF US. WE ARE VICTIMIZED BY REGULATIONS WHICH BEGIN AS SUGGESTIONS. WE ARE CONFUSED WITH PERSONS WHO HAVE OTHER DISABILITIES; PEOPLE TALK LOUDER TO US; PEOPLE IN AIRPORTS BRING US WHEEL-CHAIRS; PEOPLE SPEAK TO US IN SIGN LANGUAGE; PEOPLE GIVE US PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING; PEOPLE COMPARE US IN THE NEWSPAPER WITH THE MENTALLY ILL; PEOPLE ENROLL US IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES WHETHER WE NEED THEM OR NOT; AND PEOPLE CONTINUE TO MISUNDERSTAND. OUR BARRIERS ARE PRIMARILY ATTITUDINAL, NOT PHYSICAL, MENTAL, MEDICAL, OR INSTITUTIONAL. OUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN STRONG AND FAR-REACHING TO CHANGE AND CORRECT MISCONCEPTIONS THROUGH HEARINGS, LEGISLATIVE CHANGE, LAWSUITS, ADVISORY INPUT, PUBLICATIONS, SEMINARS, AWARENESS PROGRAMS AND MORE. WE OFFER OUR EXPERIENCE AND COOPERATION IN AREAS AND ISSUES WHICH TRULY ARE OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO US AND OTHERS WITH DISABILITIES. THESE ISSUES AND CONCERNS, HOWEVER, ARE SPECIFIC; AND IN NO WAY CAN WE OPERATE IN AN ONGOING FASHION WITH, OR SPEAK FOR, OTHER GROUPS OR COALITIONS OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS. COOPERATIVE EFFORTS SUCH AS THE BFE 504 TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ARE COMMENDABLE, ESSENTIAL, AND PROGRESSIVE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FORMATION OF A COALITION IS NOT, HOWEVER, A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE 504 TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND THAT THE PURSUIT OF SUCH A COALITION WAS NOT REPRESENTED IN NOTICES OR REGISTRATION MATERIALS. WE SEEK GOOD WILL AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER DISABLED PERSONS AND HOPE THAT OUR POSITION IS ACCEPTED WITH THE SAME UNDERSTANDING WHICH WE HAVE TRIED TO CONVEY. OUR POSITION REMAINS ONE OF OPPOSING COALITIONS, NOT COOPERATION. WE CANNOT SPEAK EFFECTIVELY ON BEHALF OF ANY GROUP OTHER THAN THE BLIND. WHEN PEOPLE WHO SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES COME TOGETHER TO CONVERSE SOMETHING IS BOUND TO BE LOST IN THE TRANSLATION.

BLINDNESS A BOTHER, NOT HANDICAP

FROM THE SUMTER DAILY JUNE 30, 1980

BEING BLIND IS A NUISANCE FOR OLLIE HEYWARD, BUT NOT A HANDICAP. "IT ISN'T EASY," SHE SAID, "BUT BEING BLIND DOESN'T MEAN GIVING UP ANYTHING. I DON'T THINK OF IT AS A HANDICAP; I THINK OF IT AS A NUISANCE." ALTHOUGH MRS. HEYWARD GAVE UP HER TEACHING POSITION WHEN SHE BECAME BLIND, SHE CONTINUED MANY OF THE OTHER THINGS SHE HAS ALWAYS DONE. BESIDES BEING ACTIVE IN THE EMMANUEL METHODIST CHURCH, WHERE SHE SINGS IN THE CHOIR, MRS. HEYWARD IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM; THE BIBLE STUDY CLASS; ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY; THE COMMUNITY AWARENESS CLUB; THE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION, AND THE BOARD OF THE S. C. FEDERATION OF THE BLIND.

THESE ORGANIZATIONS KEEP HER BUSY, BUT NOT TOO BUSY TO HELP OUT WHEN SHE IS NEEDED. "I JUST CAN'T SAY NO TO A GOOD CAUSE," SHE SAID. MIKE KARVELAS, DIRECTOR OF A LOCAL UNIT, SAID HE WAS AMAZED THAT MRS. HEYWARD WOULD SO CHEERFULLY DEVOTE HER TIME TO HELPING OTHERS AS SHE DID. "A LOT OF SIGHTED PERSONS DIDN'T DO AS MUCH AS SHE DID," HE SAID. MRS. HEYWARD LIVES WITH HER SON, DARRELL, A SENIOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, IN AN ATTRACTIVE HOUSE ON KING STREET. SHE SAID SHE IS VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE GEORGIA BREVARD, AS HER COMPANION AND HER GOOD FRIEND. MRS. HEYWARD ENJOYS MANY HOBBIES, SUCH AS COOKING AND BAKING, WALKING, TRAVELING, AND ENTERTAINING FRIENDS. SHE IS ALSO ACTIVE IN ALL HER CLUBS. "I KNOW I CAN'T DO EVERYTHING," MRS. HEYWARD SAID. "BUT THINGS I CAN DO, I TRY TO DO." SHE ENJOYS HER WORK WITH THE FEDERATION OF THE BLIND - SHE IS ON THE BOARD OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER AND PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL CHAPTER - BECAUSE SHE CAN ENCOURAGE OTHER MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH HER FIRST REACTION TO BEING BLIND WAS DESPAIR, MRS. HEYWARD SAID WHEN HER SON ASKED WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO, SHE REPLIED, "WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WE'RE GOING TO LIVE." SHE LEARNED THAT DESPAIR DIDN'T HELP AND REALIZED "I WAS NOT THE ONLY PERSON WHO WAS BLIND. OTHER PEOPLE ARE BLIND." SHE SPENT FIVE MONTHS IN LITTLE ROCK, ARK., FOR GENERAL TRAINING FOR THE BLIND, WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS "AN AWAKENING." "I LEARNED THAT YOU LOST JUST YOUR SIGHT, AND YOU CAN ENJOY MANY THINGS WITHOUT SIGHT," SHE SAID. THE GROUP WENT TO THE THEATRE, CONCERTS, CARNIVALS, AND ON TOURS. THE HARDEST PART, SHE SAID, WAS ACCEPTING THE CANE AS PART OF MOBILITY TRAINING. "I NEVER WANTED THAT CANE," SHE SAID, SHAKING HER HEAD, "BECAUSE THAT CANE MEANS YOU REALLY ARE BLIND." MRS. HEYWARD PAUSED REMEMBERING. "NOW I WOULDN'T DO WITHOUT IT," SHE SAID, SMILING. MRS. HEYWARD HAS WORKED WITH THE HEADSTART PROGRAM AS A VOLUNTEER AND WITH THE YWCA. SHE HAS ATTENDED SESSIONS AT ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND IN PICKENS COUNTY AND RECENTLY ATTENDED A SEMINAR AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH MRS. HEYWARD HASN'T BEEN EMPLOYED SINCE HER BLINDNESS, SHE SAID SHE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A JOB, PERHAPS DOING TELEPHONE WORK. SHE HAS BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO HAVE BLIND PEOPLE ACCEPTED BY THE SIGHTED WORLD. "WE ARE THE LAST TO BE EMPLOYED," MRS. HEYWARD LAMENTED. "IT'S SOMETHING WE CLAMOR FOR - EMPLOYMENT FOR THE BLIND." MRS. HEYWARD HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE NATIONAL FEDERATION IN TRYING TO PUSH LEGISLATION TO AID THE BLIND, SUCH AS ALLOWING BLIND PERSONS TO SIT ON A JURY. SOUTH CAROLINA APPROVED THE LAW THIS YEAR. "WE LOST BY ONLY THREE VOTES," SHE SAID. "BUT WE'LL BE BACK THERE NEXT YEAR."

NFB OF SC FEATURED IN BAPTIST COURIER

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN THE MAY 22 EDITION OF THE BAPTIST COURIER. THE PUBLICATION WHICH REACHES SOME 126,000 BAPTISTS ALSO INCLUDED A PICTURE OF DONALD CAPPS, PRESIDENT OF THE NFB OF SC. SOME OF THE ARTICLE IN THE BAPTIST COURIER READS AS FOLLOWS: SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS AND OTHERS IN THE STATE WHO ARE BLIND SOON WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR THE BAPTIST COURIER. THE MISSIONS DEPARTMENT PLANS TO MAKE SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS' OFFICIAL NEWS-MAGAZINE - AND THE LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWS PUBLICATION IN THE STATE - AVAILABLE TO THE BLIND ON 90-MINUTE CASSETTE TAPES STARTING WITH THE FIRST ISSUE IN JULY. BERNICE POPHAM, ASSOCIATE IN THE MISSIONS DEPT., SAID THE TAPES WILL BE PROVIDED FREE BUT MUST BE RETURNED FOR USE AGAIN. RIGHT NOW THE MISSIONS DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE COURIER. IT ALSO IS ASKING FOR HELP IN FINDING BLIND PERSONS WHO WANT TO RECEIVE THE TAPES. POPHAM SAID THE DEPARTMENT WILL WORK THROUGH THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND ITS 20 CENTERS IN THE STATE IN ADDITION TO CHURCHES WITH BLIND PERSONS IN THEIR MEMBERSHIP. BRYSON SAID HIS DEPARTMENT ALSO INTENDS TO PUT ON TAPE FOR BLIND PERSONS THE MISSIONS STUDY BOOKS USED TO PROMOTE THE THREE SPECIAL OFFERINGS - LOTTIE MOON, ANNIE ARMSTRONG AND MRS. J. D. CHAPMAN.

WHAT MAKES THE NFB OF SC THE GREATEST ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD

BY WAYNE WALTERS

I JOINED THE NFB OF SC IN 1971. SINCE THEN I HAVE ATTENDED ALL BUT 2 STATE CONVENTIONS. THE 1980 CONVENTION EXCEEDS ANY THAT I HAVE EVER ATTENDED. THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE THIS YEAR WAS UNBELIEVABLE. THE SPEAKERS WERE MOST INFORMATIVE. PARTICULARLY THE LUNCHEON SPEAKER, LEN HATHAWAY OF RADIO STATION WIS. THE BANQUET IS THE GREATEST I HAVE EVER ATTENDED HIGHLIGHTED BY A MOST INSPIRING INVOCATION GIVEN BY FELLOW FEDERATIONIST AND PERSONAL FRIEND, McDONALD HANCOCK OF COLUMBIA. THE AWARDS WERE GIVEN TO MOST DESERVING PEOPLE. I WISH TO EXPRESS CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. DORIS BELL FOR RECEIVING THE FIRST PRESIDENT'S SITUATION. THERE IS NOT A MORE DEVOTED MEMBER OF OUR ORGANIZATION THAN MRS. BELL IN MY OPINION. THE 1980 CONVENTION WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS BUT FEDERATIONISTS' LET'S DON'T STOP. THERE WOULD NOT BE SPACE IN THIS PUBLICATION TO LIST ALL THE REASONS THE NFB OF SC IS THE GREATEST ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD. IN THE LEGISLATIVE AREA THE SUCCESS OF THE NFB OF SC IS UNPRECEDENTED AND YET IN EVERY INSTANCE WHEN WE APPROACH A LEGISLATOR OR A CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IT IS DONE WITH DIGNITY.

THE ATTITUDE IN WHICH THIS ORGANIZATION ASSUMES CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE BLIND IS ANOTHER AREA WHICH MAKES THIS ORGANIZATION GREAT. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS HONORABLE THAT ALL BLIND PERSONS ABLE TO WORK SHOULD WORK. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BE GOOD CITIZENS. I THINK WE SHOULD ALL VOTE AND BE ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND CHURCHES. I HAVE NEVER KNOWN AN ORGANIZATION WHERE SUCH UNITY EXISTS. IT IS THROUGH THIS UNITY OF PURPOSE AND OF MINDS AND HEARTS THAT SUCH PROJECTS AS THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND COULD BE ESTABLISHED. THIS IS DUE TO THE SUPER LEADERSHIP THAT WE HAVE BOTH IN THIS STATE HEADED BY ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING MEN THAT I KNOW, DONALD CAPPS AND ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL HEADED BY DR. KENNETH JERNIGAN WHO HAS TO BE THE VOICE OF THE BLIND OF THIS NATION. ALL OF US AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER HAVE BEEN EFFECTED BY DISCRIMINATION. THE NFB GOES TO BAT AT THIS AREA FOR WHICH WE ALL SHOULD BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL. WE ARE IN SYMPATHY WITH MRS. MATTIE BELL (TOOTSIE) GATLIN OF OUR CHARLESTON CHAPTER WHO AFTER BEING DENIED THE RIGHT TO SERVE ON A JURY SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF BLINDNESS CONTACTED THE LEGISLATORS OF HER AREA. WE ARE ALL ONE BIG FAMILY. THE NFB OF SC SHOULD NOW BE PROUD OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE S. C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND. WE HAVE NOW A COMMISSIONER, THE HONORABLE MRS. MAXINE BOWLES, WHO IS BOTH SENSITIVE AND INTERESTED IN THE NEEDS OF THE BLIND. THIS YEAR AT OUR STATE CONVENTION I WAS GIVEN THE HONOR TO SERVE ON THE STATE BOARD. AS STATED IN MY CONFIRMATION REMARKS I WILL SERVE THIS ORGANIZATION WITH ALL THE ABILITY GOD HAS GIVEN ME. I PERSONALLY WANT TO EXPRESS MY LOVE TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN OUR ORGANIZATION. IF ANY WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND WITH ME YOU CAN DO SO BY WRITING ME AT 219 MARLON AVENUE, ANDERSON, S. C. 29624 OR TELEPHONE ME AT 296-5833.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY DONALD CAPPS

THIS IS BEING WRITTEN ONE WEEK AFTER OUR RECENT STATE CONVENTION AT THE CAPSTONE. SO MANY FINE THINGS OCCURRED AT THE STATE CONVENTION PROVIDING INSPIRATION TO EVEN THOSE OF US WHO ATTENDED THE PREVIOUS 23 STATE CONVENTIONS. WHO WOULD HAVE EVER OF THOUGHT THAT IN A MATTER OF A FEW MINUTES A STATE CONVENTION OF THE BLIND WOULD SPONTANEOUSLY CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN \$2500.00. WHEN WE REPORTED TO THE CONVENTION THAT THE STATE BOARD HAS AUTHORIZED US TO BORROW \$12,000.00 TO PAY THE CONTRACTOR, WE HAD NO IDEA THAT IT WOULD START THE KIND OF REACTION WHICH OCCURRED. HOWEVER, IT WAS EXTREMELY HEART WARMING AND WAS A FITTING CLIMAX TO A MOST REWARDING STATE CONVENTION.

ALSO, WHO EVER THOUGHT THAT SHELIA AND JOHN COMPTON WOULD HAVE GIVEN \$500.00 ON THEIR OWN TO ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND. AND THEN THERE WAS JERRY WHITTLE, AFTER ACCEPTING THE \$250.00 SCHOLARSHIP WITH EMOTION, HE PROUDLY TOLD THE SOME 300 PERSONS PRESENT AT THE CONVENTION BANQUET THAT HE WANTED ROCKY BOTTOM TO HAVE THESE FUNDS. IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT JERRY WAS THE FIRST CAMP CARETAKER AT ROCKY BOTTOM IN THE SUMMER OF 1979. AND IF THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH, A SHORT WHILE LATER DURING THE SUNDAY MORNING SESSION, DELEGATES GAVE OR PLEDGED NEARLY \$700.00 TO THE 1981 BALTIMORE CONVENTION FUND. MORE THAN \$3,000.00 WAS GIVEN OR PLEDGED BY DELEGATES AT THE SUNDAY MORNING SESSION OF THE CONVENTION. WHAT A GLORIOUS DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE AND DEVOTION. HOW CAN A STATE PRESIDENT EVER BE TO GRATEFUL FOR THAT KIND OF DEDICATED MEMBERSHIP. THERE WAS NO HINT OF TENSION OR DISUNITY THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION. EVERY DELEGATE SEEMED TO SENSE THE GREAT WORK DONE BY THE NFB OF SC AND ITS COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS THIS ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP STATEWIDE. NO ONE SEEMED TO DOUBT THE QUALITY OF THE WORK DONE BY THE NFB OF SC INCLUDING GUEST SPEAKERS AND DIGNITARIES ATTENDING THE CONVENTION BANQUET. THERE WAS A KIND OF FELLOWSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH CAN ONLY BE FELT BY MEMBERS OF AN ORGANIZATION WHICH IS TRULY IN TOUCH WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS. ALSO, WHO WOULD HAVE EVER DREAMED THAT THE STATE CONVENTION WHICH HAD ONLY FOUR CHAPTERS A DECADE AGO IN 1970 WOULD HAVE GROWN TO WHERE IT NOW HAS 19 CHAPTERS AND 2 DIVISIONS. WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED THAT 105 SOUTH CAROLINIANS WOULD ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN A DISTANT STATE LIKE MINNESOTA. WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED THAT SO MANY NEW FACES WOULD APPEAR ON THE SCENE PROVIDING NEW LEADERSHIP ON THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL. NOT WITHSTANDING MANY CHALLENGES WHICH LIE AHEAD IT HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR. AT NO TIME IN THE PAST HAS THE NFB OF SC HAD MORE PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS WORKING WITH THE ORGANIZATION. PRESENTLY THERE ARE PROMINENT SIGHTED PERSONS THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA WHO ARE WORKING WITH THE NFB OF SC IN A LONG RANGE PLAN TO DEVELOP ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND. WHILE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROCKY BOTTOM IS UTMOST THESE CITIZENS HAVE ALSO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE OVERALL PROBLEMS OF THE BLIND AND THEIR INTEREST IS MUCH DEEPER THAN JUST ROCKY BOTTOM. THIS IS IMPORTANT AS CAMPING AND RECREATION AS IMPORTANT AS THEY ARE REPRESENT ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE TOTAL NEEDS OF THE BLIND. PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF THE BLIND IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE LIFE OF THE BLIND, HOWEVER. THE NFB OF SC WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH MANY DIFFERENT GROUPS IN A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO BETTER THE LIVES OF BLIND PERSONS.

WHILE THERE WILL BE DISCOURAGEMENT AND TEMPORARY SET BACKS AS LIFE WORKS THAT WAY, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT HARD WORK, GOOD JUDGEMENT, AND INTELLIGENT PLANNING WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS. LET'S NOT HAVE ANYONE DETER US IN OUR PROGRESS ON THE STAIRWAY TO INDEPENDENCE.

FINAL THOUGHT
"DEADLY WORDS"

A WOMAN WAS BEING SHOWN AROUND A THRIVING BIBLE CAMP WHEN SHE CAME ACROSS A SMALL BURIAL GROUND. HER GUIDE SAID, "THE CAMP YOU SEE TODAY MIGHT NOT HAVE EXISTED WITHOUT THIS CEMETERY." HE EXPLAINED: "IN THE EARLY DAYS, WHEN THIS CAMP WAS ONLY A DREAM, SOMEBODY WAS ALWAYS SAYING, 'IF WE HAD THE MONEY WE'D BUILD,' OR 'WE CAN'T BUILD NOW,' OR 'IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GO AHEAD.' WE WERE STYMIED UNTIL WE CAME UP WITH A DRAMATIC IDEA FOR GETTING RID OF OUR STUMBLING BLOCKS. WE BURIED THEM!" THE VISITOR TOOK A CLOSER LOOK AT THE GRAVESTONES, "HERE LIE WORDS THAT HINDER," SAID ONE, AND ON THE OTHER THREE WERE CARVED THE WORDS: "IF," "CAN'T" AND "IMPOSSIBLE".

-AMERICAN SALESMAN



National Federation of the Blind of S. C.
(formerly the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)
119 S. Kilbourne Road
Columbia, S. C. 29205



FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND

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The Palmetto Blind

The Voice of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina



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November 1980

THE
PALMETTO BLIND

THE VOICE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA
(FORMERLY THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC.)

EDITOR: DONALD C. CAPPS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC. IS CHARTERED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO PROMOTE THE SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ALL THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE PALMETTO BLIND IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ITS MEMBERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS AND IS AVAILABLE IN PRINT, OPEN REEL AND AUDIO CASSETTE EDITIONS. THE AUDIO EDITION IS A SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND.

READERS WHO RECEIVE THE OPEN REEL AND AUDIO CASSETTE EDITIONS ARE REQUESTED TO HANDLE THE TAPES WITH CARE AND TO RETURN THEM PROMPTLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHER USERS. IF YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A BAD TAPE, PLEASE LET THE CENTER KNOW BY DROPPING US A NOTE ENCLOSED WITH THE BAD CASSETTE SO THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN TO REMOVE THAT CASSETTE FROM OUR LIBRARY.

IF YOU OR A FRIEND WISH TO REMEMBER THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC., ALSO KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, IN YOUR WILL YOU CAN DO SO BY EMPLOYING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

"I GIVE, DEVISE AND BEQUEATH UNTO THE SOUTH CAROLINA AURORA CLUB OF THE BLIND, INC., ALSO KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA, P. O. BOX 4174, COLUMBIA, S.C. THE SUM OF \$_____ (OR "____ PERCENT OF MY NET ESTATE", OR "THE FOLLOWING STOCKS AND BONDS:_____") TO BE USED FOR ITS WORTHY PURPOSES ON BEHALF OF BLIND PERSONS AND TO BE HELD AND ADMINISTERED BY DIRECTION OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME.....	PAGE 1
2. GOVERNOR RILEY APPOINTS FEDERATIONISTS.....	PAGE 7
3. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR COMMENDS NFB OF SC.....	PAGE 8
4. FEDERATION CENTER HAS NEW PARKING AREA.....	PAGE 8
5. MRS. LAWTON WRITES FROM RICHMOND.....	PAGE 9
6. BLIND MAN REACHES GOALS - FROM <u>THE INDEX-JOURNAL</u>	PAGE 9
7. DR. HOLMES APPOINTED ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.....	PAGE 11
8. BLIND ALUMNI MEETS.....	PAGE 12
9. SIGHTLESS WORLD STILL FULL OF WONDERS FROM <u>THE NEWS & COURIER</u> , OCTOBER 5, 1980.....	PAGE 13
10. BUSES TO BE CHARTERED AGAIN FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION....	PAGE 15
11. FEDERATIONIST OFFERS READING CENTER CABINET.....	PAGE 16
12. PRESIDENT STRIBLING GETTING MESSAGE ACROSS.....	PAGE 16
13. IN MEMORIAM.....	PAGE 16
14. 1981 SEMINARS SCHEDULED.....	PAGE 17
15. CHAPTERS ORGANIZED IN PICKENS AND MYRTLE BEACH.....	PAGE 17
16. JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND - BY SUZANNE BRIDGES...	PAGE 19
17. PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE TO HOST '81 STATE CONVENTION.....	PAGE 20
18. FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - BY DONALD CAPPS.....	PAGE 20
19. FINAL THOUGHT.....	PAGE 21

FOR THE FIRST TIME

FOR THE FIRST TIME THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA ARE ABLE TO ENJOY YEAR-ROUND RECREATION AND FELLOWSHIP AT A MOUNTAIN RETREAT. FURTHERMORE IT IS A FREE SERVICE TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S BLIND. HERE IS HOW IT HAPPENED. IT WAS A COOL CRISP AUTUMN EVENING TWO YEARS AGO IN OCTOBER OF 1978 WHEN THE FIRST MEETING WAS HELD BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE NFB OF SC AND PICKENS COUNTY. THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT MEETING WAS ARRANGED THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S DISTINGUISHED COMPTROLLER GENERAL HONORABLE EARLE E. MORRIS, JR., A NATIVE OF PICKENS COUNTY. FIVE PERSONS ATTENDED THE MEETING. THEY INCLUDED MR. MARVIN ELLENBURG, CHAIRMAN OF PICKENS COUNTY COUNCIL, DR. WILLIAM COFFEEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PICKENS COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION, SUZANNE BRIDGES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND, AND NFB OF SC PRESIDENT, DONALD C. CAPPS, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE BETTY. MR. ELLENBURG IS A BANKER IN EASLEY AND DR. COFFEEN IS ON THE FACULTY OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY. IT WAS A SPLENDID MEETING AND THE FAIRLY LONG TRIP BACK HOME FROM EASLEY TO COLUMBIA SEEMED MUCH SHORTER BECAUSE OF THE ENTHUSIASM AND ENCOURAGEMENT STEMMING FROM THAT MEETING. TWO MONTHS LATER FEDERATION OFFICIALS GOT THE GOOD NEWS THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR AS OFFICIAL WORD WAS RECEIVED THAT PICKENS COUNTY COUNCIL HAD VOTED TO APPROVE THE FEDERATION'S APPLICATION TO OPERATE A YEAR-ROUND CAMP AS A FREE SERVICE TO ALL THE STATE'S BLIND.

TWO YEARS LATER

TWO YEARS HAVE NOW ELAPSED AND ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND, ONLY A DREAM THAT AUTUMN EVENING IN OCTOBER 1978, IS A REALITY. THE NFB OF SC ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE AND HAS JUSTIFIED THE CONFIDENCE AND FAITH DEMONSTRATED IN THE ORGANIZATION BY PICKENS COUNTY OFFICIALS. PLANS IMMEDIATELY WENT FORWARD TO CONVERT THE OLD 4-H CAMP CLOSED MORE THAN A DECADE EARLIER INTO A FUNCTIONAL MOUNTAIN RETREAT FOR THE BLIND OF THE STATE. AN EXPANSION PROGRAM GOT UNDER WAY ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. A SMALL COTTAGE WAS RENOVATED. LATER THIS COTTAGE WAS DOUBLED IN SIZE AND IS KNOWN AS OSTERNECK COTTAGE. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL FACILITY WITH MORE THAN 5,000 SQUARE FEET AND WILL ACCOMMODATE 36 PERSONS.

DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

TWO YEARS AGO WHEN ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND WAS STILL JUST A DREAM, THAT'S ALL IT WAS, A DREAM ONLY. THERE WAS PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT AND ENTHUSIASM BUT NO RESOURCES OR FUNDING.

SINCE THAT TIME, HOWEVER, THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND PROJECT HAS REALIZED CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$160,000 IN THE FORM OF CASH GIFTS, MATERIALS AND SERVICES. NATURALLY A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT HAS GONE INTO THE ERECTION OF OSTERNECK COTTAGE. HOWEVER, THIS BEAUTIFUL FACILITY IS NOW VALUED IN EXCESS OF \$200,000. KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL OF THIS HAS COME ABOUT DURING THE PAST 24 MONTHS. WHILE MANY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS, THE NFB OF SC HAS PROVIDED THE LEADERSHIP AND INSPIRATION.

BLIND THROUGHOUT THE STATE VISIT ROCKY BOTTOM

WHILE CAMPING AT ROCKY BOTTOM BY THE STATE'S BLIND WAS NECESSARILY LIMITED IN 1979 THE COMPLETION OF OSTERNECK COTTAGE IN 1980 ACCELERATED ATTENDANCE. BLIND GROUPS AS WELL AS COUPLES AND INDIVIDUALS FROM THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE ENJOYED TIME SPENT AT ROCKY BOTTOM. NATURALLY WEEKENDS AT THE CAMP ARE MORE POPULAR AS WEEKENDS AFFORD MORE FREE TIME FOR LEISURE AND RECREATION. HOWEVER, SOME GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE SPENT UP TO ONE WEEK AT THE CAMP. MOST LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE BLIND LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAVE PAID A VISIT TO ROCKY BOTTOM. THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY ENJOYED A MOUNTAIN RETREAT DURING THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS ESPECIALLY ENJOYED THE 1980 LABOR DAY WEEKEND AT ROCKY BOTTOM. A NUMBER OF BLIND PERSONS FROM THE COLUMBIA AREA VISITED ROCKY BOTTOM FOR THE FIRST TIME. AS A MATTER OF FACT IT WAS THE FIRST VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS FOR SOME. THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR OTHER BLIND PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AFFORDS A DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR FELLOWSHIP AND RECREATION. BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE, INCLUDING THE VERY YOUNG TO THE MOST SENIOR BLIND, LOVE ROCKY BOTTOM. THE NFB OF SC IS PROUD OF THIS BEAUTIFUL SERVICE.

SERVICE, A TRADEMARK OF FEDERATIONISTS.

SPEAKING OF SERVICE, FOR SEVERAL WEEKS REBA AND McDONALD HANCOCK HAVE BEEN PROVIDING A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE NFB OF SC. SINCE THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER REBA AND McDONALD HAVE BEEN AT ROCKY BOTTOM LENDING A HELPING HAND. THEIR ASSISTANCE WAS NEEDED AS THE CAMP'S FORMER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, MARY McMILLAN, WAS EXPECTING THE STORK ON SEPTEMBER 22. INCIDENTALLY, THE NFB OF SC CONGRATULATES MARY AND DOUG McMILLAN ON THE BIRTH OF A SON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2. THE McMILLAN'S LEFT ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND AS OF NOVEMBER 1. DOUG ACCEPTED A POSITION WITH DARLINGTON COUNTY AND THEY ARE NOW RESIDING IN LAMAR. THE NFB OF SC APPRECIATES THE SERVICES OF BOTH MARY AND DOUG AND EXTEND SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR EVERY SUCCESS IN THEIR NEW ENDEAVOR.

THE PALMETTO BLIND HAS LEARNED THAT McDONALD HANCOCK RECENTLY WALKED FOR SOME 4½ MILES FROM OSTERNECK COTTAGE TO THE LOOKOUT TOWER PERCHED HIGH ATOP SASSAFRAS MOUNTAIN. IT IS UPHILL ALL THE WAY AND STEEP AT MANY POINTS. SASSAFRAS MOUNTAIN IS THE HIGHEST POINT IN SOUTH CAROLINA WITH AN ELEVATION OF NEARLY 3,600 FEET. CONGRATULATIONS TO McDONALD. NOT BAD FOR A GENTLEMAN WHO IS MORE THAN THREE SCORE AND TEN.

NEEDS

WHILE THE NFB OF SC HAS DONE REMARKABLY WELL DURING THE PAST 24 MONTHS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND THERE IS STILL GREAT NEED. AS ALREADY INDICATED MANY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, BOTH SIGHTED AND BLIND, HAVE GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT. FREQUENTLY NFB OF SC OFFICIALS ARE TOLD OF SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE CAMP. FOR THE MOST PART FEDERATION OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THESE SPECIAL NEEDS. ALSO, IT CAN BE SAID WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION THAT FEDERATION OFFICIALS HAVE AND CONTINUE TO PUT FORTH AS MUCH EFFORT AS POSSIBLE TO MEET THESE NEEDS. FOR EXAMPLE, IMPROVED BEDDING IS NEEDED AND PLANS ARE UNDER WAY AT THIS TIME TO MEET THAT PARTICULAR NEED. HOWEVER, EVERYONE RECOGNIZES OR SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED INCLUDING MONEY TO PURCHASE BETTER BEDDING. THUS, AS MORE AND MORE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS VISIT ROCKY BOTTOM AND MARVEL AT THE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE BUT ALSO OBSERVE NEEDS, THE BEST WAY TO MEET THESE NEEDS IS TO MAKE OUT A CHECK TO ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT OTHER SERVICES ARE NOT ALSO NEEDED AND WANTED BUT THE GREATEST NEED AT THE CAMP AT THIS TIME IS FINANCIAL SUPPORT. LET'S ALL PITCH IN AND DO OUR PART AND THESE NEEDS WILL EVENTUALLY BE MET.

GIGANTIC YARD SALE PLANS

A GIGANTIC YARD SALE IS BEING SPONSORED ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE RICHLAND/LEXINGTON COUNTY CAMPAIGN FOR ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND. MISS LOU BROOKS, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IS HEADING UP THIS UNIQUE PROJECT. FOR SEVERAL WEEKS THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ACQUIRING A VARIETY OF ITEMS FOR THE YARD SALE. THE RUFF BUILDING LOCATED AT THE S. C. STATE FAIRGROUNDS HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR THE EXTRAVAGANZA. MANY PERSONS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MAKING THIS SPECIAL EVENT A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. WIS RADIO WILL BE ON THE SCENE WITH A LIVE BROADCAST. LEN HATHAWAY THE WIDELY LISTENED TO MORNING MAN FROM WIS WILL BE THE HOST. MANY INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES FOR THE SALE. THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND IS CURRENTLY RUNNING OUT OF SPACE. WAREHOUSE SPACE PROVIDED BY GENERAL SALES IS ALSO BEING USED.

Mrs. L. P. ARMSTRONG, A MEMBER OF THE CENTER'S ADVISORY BOARD, IS THE OVERALL CHAIRPERSON FOR THE RICHLAND/LEXINGTON COUNTY CAMPAIGN. IN ADDITION TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE WHICH WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE, THERE WILL BE A BAKE CONTEST WITH RIBBONS BEING AWARDED BY THE JUDGES. DAVE BULLARD, ALSO A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS IN CHARGE OF THE FOOD SERVICE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MR. HAMBURGLAR FROM McDONALDS WILL BE PRESENT FOR THIS FESTIVE OCCASION. WORD ALSO HAS IT THAT EVEN SANTA CLAUS MIGHT SHOW UP. A GREAT DEAL OF HARD WORK HAS ALREADY GONE INTO THIS GIGANTIC YARD SALE. ALL MERCHANDISE HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY MARKED AND THIS IN AND OF ITSELF HAS BEEN VERY TIME CONSUMING. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAVE GIVEN UNSELFISHLY OF THEIR TIME AND ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO THE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND PROJECT. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MENTION ALL OF THE GOOD PEOPLE WHO ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS GIGANTIC YARD SALE BUT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA IS GRATEFUL TO ALL OF THEM. THEY HAVE OUR RESPECT AND ADMIRATION.

ROCKY BOTTOM BENEFITS STATE'S BLIND IN OTHER WAYS

WHILE ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND IS PROVIDING WHOLESOME RECREATION AND GREAT FELLOWSHIP, THE BLIND OF THE STATE ARE ALSO REAPING OTHER BENEFITS. THIS IS DUE LARGELY TO THE PARTICIPATION OF SO MANY DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN THE ROCKY BOTTOM PROJECT. AS A RESULT, MUCH PUBLIC AWARENESS HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THE STATE'S BLIND POPULATION. THUS, THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHICH SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF A WHOLESOME CAMPING EXPERIENCE FOR THE BLIND ALSO RECOGNIZES MORE THAN EVER BEFORE THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVED PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND THE ABILITIES OF THE BLIND. THE NEWS MEDIA HAS DONE A GOOD JOB IN SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT ROCKY BOTTOM. AT THE SAME TIME THE NEWS MEDIA HAS PICKED UP ON THE OVERALL NEEDS OF THE BLIND. A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THIS VALUABLE COVERAGE IS DEMONSTRATED IN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE.

AIKEN COUNTIANS LAUNCH DRIVE FOR ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND FROM THE AIKEN COUNTY RAMBLER, AUGUST 28, 1980

A CAMP FOR THE BLIND, WHICH WILL BE AN "ATTITUDE CENTER" AS WELL AS PROVIDING OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, WAS DESCRIBED AT A DINNER MEETING OF ABOUT 50 CIVIC LEADERS OF AIKEN COUNTY LAST FRIDAY NIGHT. THE CAMP IS LOCATED NORTH OF PICKENS AT THE FOOT OF SASSAFRAS MOUNTAIN AND INCLUDES WOODLANDS, A CREEK WITH MUSICAL WATERFALLS, AND AMPLE OPEN GROUND FOR ACTIVITIES. LAND FOR THE CAMP, TO BE KNOWN AS ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND, WAS DEEDED TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE NFB IN 1979. ALREADY A DORMITORY FOR 36 PERSONS HAS BEEN BUILT.

PLANS INCLUDE ADDITIONAL COTTAGES, A DINING HALL AND AUDITORIUM. COMPTROLLER GENERAL EARLE E. MORRIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, WHO HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, CAME FROM COLUMBIA TO HELP LAUNCH A DRIVE IN AIKEN COUNTY ON BEHALF OF THE PROJECT. EARLENE GARDNER, WHO IS LEGALLY BLIND, BUT WHO EARNED A UNIVERSITY DEGREE SUMMA CUM LAUDE WHILE REARING FOUR CHILDREN, WAS MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES. "BLINDNESS DOES NOT NEED TO BE A HANDICAP. IT IS A NUISANCE THAT CAN BE OVERCOME," SHE TOLD THE AUDIENCE. SHE DESCRIBED HER OWN LOVE OF THE WOODS AS A CHILD, WHILE SHE STILL HAD VISION, AND WHAT THE EXPERIENCE AT CAMP COULD MEAN TO THE BLIND. EARLE MORRIS, WHO IS FROM PICKENS COUNTY, SAID THE CAMP WAS THE FIRST REGIONAL 4-H CAMP UNTIL CLOSED IN 1967. IT WAS ALSO THE SITE OF "GOOD WILL SUPPERS" HELD DURING EACH ELECTION YEAR, WHICH DREW POLITICIANS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE. LYN-DON JOHNSON ONCE SPOKE THERE WHEN HE WAS CAMPAIGNING AS A VICE PRESIDENT. MORRIS RELATED HOW HE FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF THE BLIND. "I WAS AN ADVERSARY AND NOT AN ADVOCATE," HE ADMITTED. A STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND WAS PROPOSED, AND AS A LEGISLATOR AT THAT TIME HE WAS AGAINST IT. TO HIS SURPRISE HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION AND BECAME ITS CHAIRMAN. "AFTER SIX MONTHS I WAS A CONVERT," HE DECLARED. HE NOTED THAT IN THE 1940'S AND 50'S "THE TOTAL SERVICE TO THE BLIND WAS A WELFARE CHECK. THEY CAME UNDER THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT. AND THERE WAS ALSO A WORKSHOP WHERE THEY MADE BROOMS." HE SAID HE LEARNED THEY "CAN DO ANYTHING YOU AND I CAN DO AND OFTEN DO IT BETTER." DONALD C. CAPPS, PRESIDENT OF THE S.C. CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND AND FIRST NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, TOLD THE GATHERING THAT ALTHOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, THERE IS STILL 70 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE BLIND. A VIVACIOUS YOUNG WOMAN, SUZANNE BRIDGES, WHO IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND, ALSO SPOKE IN BEHALF OF ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP. FEW IN THE AUDIENCE WERE AWARE BEFORE THEY SPOKE THAT BOTH CAPPS AND MISS BRIDGES ARE BLIND. CLIMAXING THE PROGRAM A DRIVE FOR \$25,000 WAS LAUNCHED IN AIKEN COUNTY TO AID THE CAMP. EACH PERSON AT THE MEETING WILL CONTACT CIVIC GROUPS AND BUSINESSES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. EARLENE GARDNER HEADS THE COMMITTEE SPEARHEADING THE CAMPAIGN. OTHERS ON THE COMMITTEE ARE CAROLE WISE, MARGARET EPLEY, BILL JENNINGS, SUE ROE, MR. AND MRS. DAN LEWIS, MR. AND MRS. SAMMY WILLIS, PAMELA THORNTON, FLORENCE HANDY AND THE REV. GEORGE KOON.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE PIONEERS VISIT ROCKY BOTTOM

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE PIONEERS FROM THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA CONVERGED ON ROCKY BOTTOM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26.

HAVING ALREADY DONATED SEVERAL NEEDED APPLIANCES TO OSTERNECK COTTAGE, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT TELEPHONE PIONEERS FROM THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA HAD VISITED ROCKY BOTTOM. THEY LIKED WHAT THEY SAW. THE PIONEERS CAME FOR BOTH WORK AND FELLOWSHIP. IN ADDITION THE PIONEERS BROUGHT WITH THEM A NUMBER OF PICNIC TABLES AND BENCHES - A VALUABLE ADDITION TO ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND. THE HIGHLY IRREGULAR AND HAZARDOUS STEPS TO THE SAM LAWTON MEMORIAL ASSEMBLY HALL ARE NO LONGER HAZARDOUS AS THE PIONEERS CONSTRUCTED RAILINGS WHICH WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT AND SAFETY. ALSO, THE PIONEERS DID A GREAT DEAL OF WORK IN THE OLD DINING HALL AS THE DIFFERENT ITEMS STORED THERE ARE NOW IN BETTER ORDER. SANDWICHED BETWEEN ALL THESE ACTIVITIES WAS A DELIGHTFUL BBQ AND A SHOWING OF THE SOUND/SLIDE DOCUMENTARY WHICH WAS ENJOYED BY ALL. THE NFB OF SC IS GRATEFUL TO THE TELEPHONE PIONEERS FOR THEIR INTEREST AND SUPPORT. YOU ARE WELCOME AT ROCKY BOTTOM AT ANYTIME.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSIONS AND NFB OF SC CO-SPONSORS SEMINAR

THE MISSION BOARD OF THE S.C. BAPTIST CONVENTION AND THE NFB OF SC WILL CO-SPONSOR A SEMINAR AT ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 6 & 7. WHILE THE SEMINAR WILL CONSIST PRIMARILY OF MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD AND STATE OFFICERS OTHERS WILL ALSO BE IN ATTENDANCE. MISS BERNICE POPHAM WHO ADDRESSED THE STATE CONVENTION WILL COORDINATE RELIGIOUS SERVICES. A 1:00 LUNCHEON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, WILL GET THE SEMINAR UNDER WAY. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SESSION ON EQUALITY OF JURY SERVICE BY THE BLIND. MISS POPHAM WILL THEN LEAD THE GROUP WITH A DEVOTIONAL SERVICE AFTER WHICH DINNER WILL BE SERVED. SATURDAY EVENING HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ALL IN ATTENDANCE. IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THE BLIND OF THE STATE HAVE OBSERVED CHRISTMAS AT ROCKY BOTTOM AND EVERYONE IS EXCITED ABOUT THIS. FOLLOWING SUNDAY MORNING'S BREAKFAST MISS POPHAM WILL AGAIN LEAD THE GROUP. AFTER THIS THERE WILL BE A THREE HOUR SESSION DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND. WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT, THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE WILL BE EVALUATED. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS WILL BE SET INTO MOTION WITH MANY PERSONS CALLED UPON TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROGRAMS. SUNDAY'S LUNCHEON WILL CONCLUDE THE TWO DAY SEMINAR WHICH WILL BE HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO ALL BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS. THE NFB OF SC IS PROUD TO JOIN THE MISSIONS BOARD OF THE S.C. BAPTIST CONVENTION IN CO SPONSORING THIS ROCKY BOTTOM SEMINAR, THE FIRST OF ITS TYPE.

GOVERNOR RILEY APPOINTS FEDERATIONISTS
TO BOARD OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

TWO FEDERATIONISTS, MRS. MATTIE BELL "TOOTSIE" GATLIN OF CHARLESTON AND MRS. PATRICIA PATRICK OF DARLINGTON HAVE BEEN APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR DICK RILEY TO THE BOARD OF THE S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND. THEIR APPOINTMENTS WERE CONFIRMED DURING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE S.C. SENATE IN AUGUST. THUS, MRS. GATLIN AND MRS. PATRICK JOIN A DISTINGUISHED LIST OF FEDERATIONISTS WHO HAVE SERVED ON THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND FROM ITS INCEPTION IN 1966. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING WHEN CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE FEDERATION WHICH BATTLED GALLANTLY AGAINST MANY OPPONENTS IN WORKING WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CREATE THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND. THE FEDERATION'S DISTINGUISHED FOUNDER, THEN THE AURORA CLUB, DR. SAMUEL MILLER LAWTON, WAS THE FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND. DR. LAWTON SERVED AS CHAIRMAN UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1972. MRS. GATLIN REPLACES MRS. ONNIE BARHAM OF COLUMBIA WHO HAS SERVED ON THE COMMISSION'S BOARD FOR SOME 7½ YEARS OR SINCE THE FIRST OF 1973. HAVING LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN WORK WITH THE BLIND THROUGH HER ACTIVITIES IN THE NFB OF SC, MRS. GATLIN BRINGS TO THE COMMISSION BOARD MANY YEARS OF VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN FIRST HAND WORK WITH THE BLIND. PRESENTLY SHE SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHARLESTON CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE ORGANIZATION. MRS. GATLIN IS A VERY GRACIOUS LADY WITH AN ATTRACTIVE DEMEANOR. SHE WILL SERVE THE COMMISSION WELL AND EVEN DURING DISAGREEMENT, MRS. GATLIN IS ABLE TO AVOID AN ABRASIVE PERSONALITY. MRS. PATRICK, WHO IS SIGHTED, IS NO STRANGER TO PROGRAMS FOR THE BLIND. THE MOTHER OF A BLIND CHILD, AND AN ITINERANT TEACHER OF THE BLIND, MRS. PATRICK WILL GIVE THE COMMISSION'S BOARD NEEDED BALANCE. SHE REPLACES MR. A. PETER ANSELMO WHO PASSED AWAY EARLIER THIS YEAR. FEDERATIONISTS WILL REMEMBER THE STIRRING ADDRESSES GIVEN BY MRS. PATRICK AT A COLUMBIA CHAPTER MEETING AND AT THE 1979 STATE CONVENTION. IN ADDITION TO BEING A MEMBER OF THE NFB OF SC MRS. PATRICK IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE STATE'S ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS OF VISUALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. UNQUESTIONABLY, BOTH MRS. GATLIN AND MRS. PATRICK ARE IMMINENTLY QUALIFIED. THEY WILL PROVIDE STABILITY TO THE COMMISSION'S BOARD. UNDOUBTEDLY, GOVERNOR RILEY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED MANY CANDIDATES FOR THESE TWO BOARD POSITIONS AND CONCLUDED THAT MRS. GATLIN AND MRS. PATRICK WERE THE BEST CANDIDATES. THE NFB OF SC CONGRATULATES MRS. GATLIN AND MRS. PATRICK AS IT KNOWS THAT BOTH WILL DO ALL THEY POSSIBLY CAN TO BE OF SERVICE TO ALL THE BLIND OF THE STATE.

NATURALLY THE NFB OF SC IS PROUD OF ITS TRACK RECORD IN HAVING THE KIND OF MEMBERSHIP WHICH PRODUCES LEADERS. IT ALSO SPEAKS WELL OF THE NFB OF SC WHEN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE STATE APPOINTS TWO PERSONS WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE PROMINENTLY INVOLVED IN THE PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMS OF THE FEDERATION. THE NFB OF SC EXTENDS SINCERE BEST WISHES TO BOTH MRS. GATLIN AND MRS. PATRICK IN THEIR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR COMMENDS NFB OF SC

DEAR MR. CAPPS:

MANY, MANY THANKS FOR THE COPY OF "THE PALMETTO BLIND", AND CONGRATULATIONS ON SUCH A SUCCESSFUL STATE CONVENTION.

IT IS APPARENT THAT THE NFB OF SC IS MAKING GREAT STRIDES IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE BLIND BOTH IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND NATIONALLY. ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS CAN BE PROUD OF YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL CONVENTION WITH 105 DELEGATES.

I WISH YOU THE BEST IN YOUR FUTURE CONVENTIONS AND PROJECTS. AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR THE COPY OF "THE PALMETTO BLIND", AND PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF I CAN EVER BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE.

SINCERELY,

NANCY STEVENSON

FEDERATION CENTER HAS NEW PARKING AREA

THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND WAS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER OF 1961. FROM THE OUTSET, THERE WAS A PARKING PROBLEM. HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION HAS BEEN SOLVED. THE FEDERATION CENTER NOW HAS A BEAUTIFUL NEW PARKING AREA WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE APPROXIMATELY 25 VEHICLES. COMPLETE WITH ELECTRICALLY LIGHTED ENTER AND EXIT SIGNS, THE PROJECT WILL COST IN EXCESS OF \$15,000. IN ADDITION TO THE PARKING LOT, GRADING AND LANDSCAPING COUPLED WITH THE PLANTING OF WINTER RYE HAVE ENHANCED THE CENTER AND GROUNDS. NEW SHRUBBERY AND FLOWERS HAVE ALSO BEEN ADDED AND BEAUTIFY THE PROPERTY. THIS SPLENDID PROGRAM WAS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MR. JOE EDENS, SR., CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTER'S IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE AND A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE CENTER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE. EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH THIS FINE PROJECT IS VERY PROUD. IT REPRESENTS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE CONTINUING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERATION CENTER. AS ALWAYS THE BLIND ATTEMPTED TO DO THEIR PART AS THEY CONTRIBUTED SOME \$2,500 TO THE PROJECT.

MRS. LAWTON WRITES FROM RICHMOND

(EDITOR'S NOTE: MRS. LAWTON IS MAKING STEADY PROGRESS FROM A HEART ATTACK SHE HAD RECENTLY. DURING HER CONVALESCENCE SHE IS RESIDING WITH HER SON DR. FRANK LAWTON IN RICHMOND.)

MRS. ALICE LAWTON, BELOVED WIDOW OF OUR DISTINGUISHED FOUNDER DR. SAM M. LAWTON, WRITES AS FOLLOWS: THANKS FOR YOUR LOVE AND PRAYERS DURING MY HOSPITAL STAY. IT'S A WONDERFUL MIRACLE THAT I'M UP AND ABOUT! IT'S GREAT HEARING ABOUT ROCKY BOTTOM! I LOOK FORWARD TO MORE. GIVE MY LOVE TO ALL.

ALICE STOCKTON LAWTON

BLIND MAN REACHES GOALS

FROM THE INDEX-JOURNAL

(EDITOR'S NOTE: MR. ARMFIELD IS PRESIDENT OF THE GREENWOOD CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC.)

THE LIGHT COMES AND GOES IN FRED ARMFIELD'S LIFE. HE WAS BORN TOTALLY BLIND IN 1949, THE SEVENTH SON OF A FAMILY OF 14. THE NEXT YEAR HE WENT THROUGH SURGERY TO HAVE THE CATARACTS REMOVED FROM HIS EYES. ACCORDING TO ARMFIELD THE OPERATION WAS A FAILURE. BUT, HE SAID, WHEN HE WAS FOUR YEARS OLD, SOMETHING ELSE SUCCEEDED. "THE VISION CAME BACK ON IT'S OWN," HE SAID. "THE SURGERY DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD." WHAT GAVE HIM SIGHT? "NO ONE'S BEEN ABLE TO EXPLAIN THAT. JUST MIRACLES." IN THE SEVENTH GRADE HE FOUND OUT THAT THERE ARE BAD MIRACLES AS WELL AS GOOD ONES. HE WAS AT SCHOOL WHEN HIS SIGHT LEFT AGAIN. NOT BIT BY BIT, BUT ALL AT ONCE. HIS PARENTS WERE SUMMONED, AND THEY BROUGHT HIM HOME. THE DARKNESS STAYED FOR NINE MONTHS. THOUGH THE DOCTOR WHO FIRST PERFORMED SURGERY SUGGESTED HE NEVER RISK GOING UNDER THE KNIFE AGAIN, ARMFIELD NOW HAD NOTHING TO LOSE. SURGERY BROUGHT BACK PARTIAL SIGHT TO ONE OF HIS EYES, AND LESS TO THE OTHER. WITH 20-200 VISION IN HIS GOOD EYE, HE WAS STILL LEGALLY BLIND IN SOUTH CAROLINA. HE FAILED THREE GRADES IN PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND WAS 22 YEARS OLD WHEN HE FINALLY GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL. THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND (SCCB) REFUSED HIM A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP, TELLING HIM HE LACKED THE ABILITY TO DO COLLEGE LEVEL WORK. THIS DIDN'T SLOW FRED ARMFIELD DOWN. OUTSIDE LIGHT MIGHT BRIGHTEN AND DIM, BUT HIS INNER SIGHT REMAINED CLEARLY FOCUSED ON FOUR GOALS IN HIS LIFE, AND THE FIRST ONE WAS A COLLEGE EDUCATION. HE WON AN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP, ENTERED THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT ORANGEBURG IN 1971, AND COMPLETED 17 HOURS OF COURSE WORK IN THE FIRST SEMESTER, MAKING THE DEAN'S LIST.

IN DECEMBER OF THAT YEAR ARMFIELD TOOK THE BUS FROM ORANGEBURG TO COLUMBIA, TO PERSONALLY PRESENT HIS 3.5 GRADE-POINT AVERAGE TO THE BLIND DIRECTOR OF THE SCCB. AN SCCB SCHOLARSHIP HELPED ARMFIELD THROUGH THE NEXT SEVEN SEMESTERS, AND HE WENT ON TO EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE IN COUNSELING AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION. THAT WAS GOAL NUMBER TWO. HE KNOWS WHY HE WAS ABLE TO EARN A MASTER'S IN COUNSELING. HE KNOWS WHY HIS EYES WERE GIVEN BACK TO HIM: "GOD HAD SOMETHING IN STORE FOR ME TO DO, AND I THINK IT WAS NO MORE THAN COUNSELING. WHEN HE FINDS SOMEONE TO SEND FOR A CERTAIN JOB, THEN THERE ISN'T ANYONE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC OR BETTER FOR THAT JOB." ARMFIELD SAID "I'M GETTING CLOSER TO GOD THAN I'VE EVER BEEN. MY GRANDMOTHER OFTEN SAID SHE FELT I'D BE A MINISTER, AND SHE WAS 95 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE DIED. I DON'T THINK THERE'S A BETTER PLACE THAN THE CHURCH. I DON'T THINK YOU CAN ACHIEVE TOO MUCH IN YOUR LIFE WITHOUT GOD IN YOUR LIFE." IT DOES SEEM THAT GOD, OR AT LEAST THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HAS INTERVENED MORE THAN ONCE IN ARMFIELD'S LIFE. GOING THROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN WOODRUFF, HIS HOMETOWN, THE BOY WAS NOT BEING EDUCATED. HE WAS DROPPING BACK, GRADE BY GRADE, AND LEARNING VERY LITTLE. "THE KIDS WOULD POKE FUN AT YOU," HE SAID, "LAUGHING AT YOU BECAUSE YOUR EYES WERE DANCING AROUND, YOU KNOW, UP AND DOWN LIKE THAT." "THOSE WERE SOME FRUSTRATED YEARS." THEN, REV. O.H. WILLIS, OF THE NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH TOLD HIM ABOUT THE S. C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND AND HELPED HIM FILL OUT AN APPLICATION. REV. WILLIS TAUGHT MATHEMATICS AT THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. ARMFIELD WAS ACCEPTED IN THE FALL OF 1967, A MOMENT HE CALLS "THE TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE. HE OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME." THE YOUNG MAN PACKED HIS BAGS AND MOVED TO SPARTANBURG, TO LIVE AND WORK AT THE SCHOOL. IN THE SMALL CLASSROOMS HE RECEIVED THE ATTENTION HE NEEDED. BECAUSE OF THE LARGE-PRINT BOOKS HE, COULD READ, WITHOUT STRAINING, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE. HE GRADUATED WITH HONORS IN 1971. THAT SUMMER HE WENT ON TO COMPLETE A COURSE IN SWEDISH MASSAGE AT THE SPARTANBURG YMCA, A SKILL HE HAD STUDIED WHILE AT THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. HE WAS CERTIFIED IN AUGUST, 1971. "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IS THAT THE CERTIFICATION LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE." HE BECAME A MASSEUR IN THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT AT STATE, WHICH PAID FOR THAT FIRST CRUCIAL SEMESTER. HIS EXPERIENCE IN MASSAGE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO HIS INTERESTS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING. DURING GRADUATE SCHOOL HE "TOOK EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND WORKSHOPS" IN VARIOUS COUNSELING SKILLS, GOING TO GEORGIA, NORTH CAROLINA AND EVEN DALLAS, TEXAS. "YOU CAN'T REALLY ENJOY COUNSELING UNTIL YOU GET OUT THERE AND SEE WHAT THE PROFESSIONALS ARE DOING," HE SAID.

AT THESE CLINICS HE WOULD MEET THE MEN WHO INVENTED THE TECHNIQUES HE WAS STUDYING - MEN SUCH AS CARL ROGERS AND ALBERT ELLIS - AND BECAME INTERESTED IN DIFFERENT THERAPEUTIC PROCESSES. HE STUDIED AND PRACTICED ROLFING, THE DEEP MASSAGE OF SKELETAL MUSCLES, WHICH RELEASES BUILT-IN ANXIETIES AND DEFENSE POSTURES. BEFORE GRADUATE SCHOOL, THE CHURCH BROUGHT ARMFIELD HIS THIRD GOAL, IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY. IN 1971 HE MET DEBORAH ANN STACKHOUSE, DAUGHTER OF THE REV. PORTER L. STACKHOUSE FROM DUE WEST. THEY WERE MARRIED IN JUNE, 1975, A MONTH AFTER GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE. WHEN ARMFIELD RECEIVED HIS MASTER'S IN 1977 THE COUPLE MOVED TO McCORMICK, WHERE THEY BOTH TAUGHT AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL. IN 1978 THE TWO BOUGHT A HOUSE ON WISEWOOD DRIVE IN GREENWOOD, WHERE THEY LIVE NOW WITH THEIR TWO CHILDREN, PHAEDRA KANTICE, 3, AND XAVIER DEJOUN, WHO IS ALMOST 1. ARMFIELD RESIGNED HIS TEACHING POST LAST SPRING, AND HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME COUNSELING JOB SINCE THEN, BUT SO FAR WITH NO SUCCESS. HE HAS OFFERED HIS SERVICES FREE TO VARIOUS AGENCIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE CENTERS IN TOWN, TO EXPAND HIS EXPERIENCE AND HELP THE COMMUNITY. SO FAR HE HAS BEEN REBUFFED EACH TIME. BUT, HE SAID, "I ALWAYS LEAVE IN GOOD FAITH. I DON'T LEAVE A PERSON ANGRY WITH ME, OR ME ANGRY WITH THEM." YET ARMFIELD SOUNDS DETERMINED. "I AM NOT GOING TO BE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET UP SOME KIND OF COUNSELING PROGRAM IN GREENWOOD. BEFORE I GO ON MY DYING BED I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING FOR THIS COMMUNITY." HIS EYES MAY BE DIM BUT HIS SIGHT IS FIXED FIRMLY ON GOAL NUMBER FOUR.

DR. HOLMES APPOINTED ACTING PRESIDENT OF S.C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

DR. A. BARON HOLMES HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE S.C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND AS THE INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL. DR. HOLMES ASSUMED HIS NEW DUTIES IN OCTOBER. HE REPLACED DR. RICHARD HYER WHO WAS EMPLOYED IN JULY TO HEAD UP THE SCHOOL BUT RETURNED TO THE GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND IN SEPTEMBER AFTER SOME PERSONAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE BOARD. PALMETTO BLIND READERS WILL RECALL THAT MR. N. F. WALKER WHO SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL FOR MANY YEARS RETIRED IN JUNE. DR. HOLMES, WHO HAS A GOOD BACKGROUND IN GOVERNMENTAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS WAS HIRED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WITH THE PRIMARY VIEW OF STRAIGHTENING OUT SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES OF THE SCHOOL. OVER THE YEARS, THE SCHOOL HAS GROWN TREMENDOUSLY AND WITH THAT GROWTH ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS HAVE BECOME MORE COMPLEX.

DR. HOLMES HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE WILL NOT SERVE AS PRESIDENT BEYOND JUNE OF 1981 BUT FEELS THAT THIS WILL GIVE HIM THE TIME TO CONCENTRATE IN AREAS WHERE THE SCHOOL NEEDS HIS EXPERTISE. ALREADY DR. HOLMES HAS GAINED THE RESPECT OF THE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH AND INTERESTED IN THE SCHOOL. AFTER ACCEPTING THE APPOINTMENT DR. HOLMES MET WITH FEDERATION OFFICIALS AND OTHERS. THE NFB OF SC SUPPORTS DR. HOLMES IN HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL AND EXTENDS SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL TENURE.

BLIND ALUMNI MEETS

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE S.C. SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST. FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON A BUSINESS MEETING WAS HELD. SPEAKERS INCLUDED THE SCHOOL'S NEW PRESIDENT DR. A. BARON HOLMES AND MISS PHYLLIS PETTY, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION. ROBERT L. OGLESBY OF SPARTANBURG WAS RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION. OTHER OFFICERS INCLUDE GAYLE MARTIN, GARY WILLIAMS AND CLYDE MOORE. THERE WAS OPEN HOUSE FOLLOWING THE BUSINESS SESSION. THE HIGHPOINT OF THE MEETING WAS THE SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET. DR. HOLMES WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER. THE ALUMNI LIKED WHAT THEY HEARD. DR. HOLMES ASSURED THE GATHERING THAT HE WAS BUSILY ENGAGED IN LEARNING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL. HE SPOKE OF HIS DESIRE TO WORK WITH ALL GROUPS AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE. DR. HOLMES ASSURED THE GROUP THAT HE BELIEVED IN BLIND CONSUMER REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND WOULD WORK TOWARD THAT END. NOT ONLY DOES HE SUPPORT BLIND CONSUMER REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SCHOOL BUT ALSO TOLD THE GROUP THAT HE FELT THERE SHOULD BE BLIND REPRESENTATION ON THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION. THE BLIND WERE PLEASED WITH THE INSIGHT AND PHILOSOPHY DEMONSTRATED BY DR. HOLMES AND FOUND IT REFRESHING AND SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. THE CONCEPT OF PARTNERSHIP IN WORK WITH THE BLIND IS THE ROAD THAT HE WILL TRAVEL. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WENT AWAY WITH THE FEELING THAT DR. HOLMES WAS NOT ONLY SINCERE BUT POSSESSES THE BACKGROUND AND TOOLS TO ACCOMPLISH MANY OF HIS OBJECTIVES. HE HAS AN ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITY WHICH WILL CAUSE HIS COLLEAGUES TO RALLY AROUND HIM IN ACCOMPLISHING HIGH GOALS FOR THE SCHOOL. THIS WILL SERVE THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED.

SIGHTLESS WORLD STILL FULL OF WONDERS

FROM THE NEWS & COURIER, OCTOBER 5, 1980

(EDITOR'S NOTE: MILDRED KIRKLAND IS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE CHARLESTON CHAPTER AND A LONG TIME LOCAL AND STATE LEADER OF THE NF3 OF SC.)

AT HER JOB, M. MILDRED KIRKLAND IS A HARD-WORKING SECRETARY AND RECEPTIONIST, AT HOME SHE'S A DEVOTED WIFE AND KEEPER OF THE HOUSE. SHE DONATES HER TIME IN THE EVENING TO CHARITIES, AND FROM SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AROUND THE STATE, MRS. KIRKLAND HAS EARNED THE TITLE OF CHARLESTON'S AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE. MRS. KIRKLAND DOESN'T THINK HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE OUTSTANDING, BUT OTHER PEOPLE DO. MRS. KIRKLAND HAS BEEN BLIND SINCE SHE WAS 11-MONTHS-OLD. EVEN WHEN SHE SEARCHES HER MEMORY, SHE CAN'T RECALL SEEING, KNOWING WHAT A FACE OR A TREE LOOKS LIKE, UNDERSTANDING THE MOODS OF RED AND BLUE OR MOVING THROUGH A ROOM WITHOUT PAYING ATTENTION TO NUMBER OF STEPS OR OTHER SIGNALS THAT CAN GUIDE HER. "IT'S NOT AS BAD AS PEOPLE MAY THINK," SAYS MRS. KIRKLAND WITH ONE OF HER ALWAYS READY SMILES. "IT IS A HANDICAP BUT NOT A DEFEATING ONE. EVERYONE IS HANDICAPPED IN SOME WAY BUT SOME WAYS ARE MORE OBVIOUS THAN OTHERS." MRS. KIRKLAND GREW UP IN SALLEY WHERE HER FATHER WAS A SHARE-CROPPER AND SHE HAD SEVEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS. ALTHOUGH SHE DOESN'T KNOW FOR SURE, SHE THINKS SHE MIGHT BE BLIND BECAUSE SHE WAS BORN AT HOME WITHOUT BENEFIT OF SILVER NITRATE AND LATER DEVELOPED AN EYE INFECTION. HER FATHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS 6, AND HER MOTHER SUFFERED FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE THAT HINDERED WORK. THE CHILDREN QUIT SCHOOL ONE BY ONE TO GO TO WORK ON THE FARM. MRS. KIRKLAND COULDN'T HELP BECAUSE OF THE "HANDICAP" THAT BECAME AN EDUCATIONAL BOON FOR HER. HER MOTHER SENT HER TO THE STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND INSTEAD OF TO WORK. "I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO TIE MY SHOES AND DRESS MYSELF," MRS. KIRKLAND REMEMBERS. AT FIRST NOT EAGER TO LEAVE HER FAMILY, SHE SAYS, "FROM THE TIME I WAS 6 UNTIL I WAS 12 OR 13, I CRIED EVERY TIME I WENT BACK TO SCHOOL. BUT I FINISHED UP THERE, AND I WAS THE FIRST PERSON IN MY FAMILY TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL." MRS. KIRKLAND LEARNED BRAILLE, WHICH SHE NOW TEACHES AT THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND, A UNITED WAY AGENCY. NEITHER BRAILLE BOOKS NOR TAPES WERE EASY TO OBTAIN AS SHE WAS GROWING UP ALTHOUGH MRS. KIRKLAND READS VORACIOUSLY NOW. SHE SPENT HER SUMMERS IN THE ROCKING CHAIR ON THE FRONT PORCH OF HER MOTHER'S HOUSE WHERE SHE LISTENED TO THE RADIO. "MY ORIGINAL DREAM WAS TO BE AN AUTHOR, A POET OR A COMEDIAN LIKE THE ONES I HEARD ON THE RADIO," SHE SAYS.

"WHEN I WAS GROWING UP I WAS SHY, LESS ORIENTED TOWARD PEOPLE THAN I AM NOW." MRS. KIRKLAND WAS SHY NOT ONLY BECAUSE HER PARENTS WERE QUIET BY NATURE BUT ALSO BECAUSE PEOPLE SO SELDOM INCLUDED HER. SHE BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO COMMENTS LIKE "PUT HER OVER THERE" WHEN SHE WENT TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE AND TO FRIENDS' SITTING HER IN THE CORNER AND NEVER LETTING HER TAKE PART IN PARTY GAMES. "I HAD A LOVING FAMILY, BUT THEY WERE OVERLY PROTECTIVE," SHE ADDS. AFTER ATTENDING SCHOOL, HOWEVER, SHE GATHERED UP HER COURAGE AND SET OUT FOR CHARLESTON AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND, WHICH OFFERED THE STATE'S ONLY INSTRUCTION IN MOBILITY FOR THE BLIND. AND MRS. KIRKLAND WANTED TO BE ABLE TO GET AROUND. AMONG OTHER THINGS, SHE LEARNED HOW TO RIDE BUSES, WHICH STILL PROVIDE MOST OF HER TRANSPORTATION, AND TO WALK FROM BUS STOPS TO DESTINATIONS. AIDED ONLY BY A CANE, MRS. KIRKLAND HAS MEMORIZED LANDMARKS, FENCE BREAKS, LAMP POSTS AND INNUMERABLE LITTLE WAYS TO HELP HER WALK FROM PLACE TO PLACE WITH CONFIDENCE. IN FACT, SHE LEARNED SO MUCH SO FAST THAT THE ASSOCIATION HIRED HER IN 1954 AS RECEPTIONIST AND BRAILLE TEACHER, A JOB SHE'S HELD EVER SINCE AND TACKLES WITH ENTHUSIASM FIVE DAYS A WEEK. HER WORK OFTEN TAKES HER AROUND THE STATE TO SPEAK TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CLASSES. "GETTING A JOB WAS A TURNING POINT FOR ME," SAYS THE GREGARIOUS WOMAN. SIGHTLESS PEOPLE FIND IT DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT, SHE NOTES. "I ALSO NEEDED TO GET AWAY FROM HOME, NOT JUST TO HAVE A JOB BUT TO MAKE A LIFE." SHE LIVED INDEPENDENTLY FIRST AT A YWCA AND LATER AT A BOARDING HOUSE. THEN DURING A PARTY AT THE ASSOCIATION, SHE MET GEORGE L. KIRKLAND, JR. BORN BLIND AND LEGALLY STILL BLIND. KIRKLAND NOW IS ABLE TO SEE COLORS AND LARGE ITEMS. MRS. KIRKLAND SAYS, "HE HAD LED A VERY SHELTERED LIFE. SOMETIMES IT IS MORE DIFFICULT FOR A PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSON THAN FOR A BLIND PERSON. HIS MOTHER HAD KEPT HIM AT HOME AND NOT SENT HIM TO SCHOOL. I JUST THANK GOD MY MOTHER SENT ME." THE KIRKLANDS BEGAN LEARNING WITH AND FROM ONE ANOTHER ALTHOUGH MRS. KIRKLAND ADDS WITH A LAUGH THAT THE ROMANCE DIDN'T RACE LIKE WILDFIRE AT FIRST. TODAY THE HAPPY COUPLE OWN THEIR OWN DOWNTOWN HOME AND SHARE THE HOUSEWORK. KIRKLAND PLAYS TRUMPET IN A CHARLESTON BAND, WHICH GIVES HIM TIME AT HOME WHILE MRS. KIRKLAND IS TYPING LETTERS FROM NOTES ON A DICTAPHONE AND ANSWERING THE TELEPHONE AT WORK. BUT DURING HOLIDAY SEASONS WHEN THE BAND IS IN GREATEST DEMAND, "WE FEEL LIKE WE'RE ONLY PASSING ONE ANOTHER," SAYS MRS. KIRKLAND. TO HELP HER AT HOME, KIRKLAND HAS MARKED THE WASHING MACHINE AND TEMPERATURE SETTINGS ON THE OVEN IN BRAILLE, AND THE COUPLE CHOSE A STOVE WITH OVAL DIALS SO SHE CAN TELL HIGH FROM LOW BY THE SHAPE.

KIRKLAND VACUUMS WHILE HIS WIFE SWEEPS, DUSTS AND WASHES THE CLOTHING. AN ELECTRONICS WHIZ, KIRKLAND HAS RIGGED A SOUND SYSTEM THAT LETS THE COUPLE LISTEN TO BOOK TAPES, TELEVISION AND RADIO IN EVERY ROOM. AND SO MRS. KIRKLAND CAN ORGANIZE THE WARDROBE OF CLOTHING SHE ALWAYS SELECTS HERSELF, KIRKLAND HAS MARKED COLORS AND PATTERNS IN BRAILLE ON METAL TAGS HE ATTACHES TO EACH GARMENT. DESPITE ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME AND EVENINGS DEVOTED TO MAKING BLOOD BANK SOLICITATION CALLS FOR THE RED CROSS, MRS. KIRKLAND ISN'T A HOMEBODY. A NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND MEMBER, SHE ATTENDS MEETINGS AND EVEN CONVENTIONS AS FAR AWAY AS BOSTON. SHE BELONGS TO CITADEL SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH, WHERE SHE SUBSTITUTE TEACHES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WITH THE HELP OF BOOKS IN BRAILLE. AND SHE'S ALWAYS TRYING A NEW RESTAURANT OR CHECKING THE LATEST ARRIVALS AT SHOPS. "IT HELPS YOUR MOBILITY TO FIND A NEW PLACE," SAYS MRS. KIRKLAND. IT'S A CHALLENGE, TOO, THAT SHE'S ENCOURAGED HERSELF TO ACCEPT OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. AT TIMES MRS. KIRKLAND HAS FELT NERVOUS ABOUT ATTEMPTING SOMETHING DIFFERENT. "I THINK ABOUT IT SO MUCH AND TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT IT SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T CHICKEN OUT," SHE SAYS WITH A LAUGH. THAT'S HOW SHE MADE HER FIRST LONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. "I WENT FOR THE HECK OF IT," SHE SAYS, "TO SEE THINGS." AND EVEN THOUGH THE BUS COMPANY LOST HER LUGGAGE AND SHE HAD HER SHARE OF NEAR DISASTERS MRS. KIRKLAND NOW LOVES TO TRAVEL. WHEN THERE'S A PROBLEM, A LOST SUITCASE KEY OR AN ERRANT COMB, SAYS MRS. KIRKLAND, "YOU HAVE TO SWALLOW YOUR PRIDE. YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR MOUTH AND ASK PEOPLE. FALSE PRIDE IS A PROBLEM (FOR BLIND PEOPLE). TOO MUCH HELP IS A PROBLEM AND SO IS TOO LITTLE. "BLINDNESS IS A PART OF US BUT ONLY A PART OF OUR PERSONALITY. WE CAN TALK ABOUT THINGS OTHER THAN OUR BLINDNESS. WE DO NOT WANT PITY; WE WANT FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING."

BUSES TO BE CHARTERED AGAIN FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE OFFICERS AND STATE BOARD OF THE NFB OF SC HAVE VOTED TO CHARTER BUSES FOR THE TRIP TO BALTIMORE WHERE THE 1981 NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD. FOR A DECADE NOW THE NFB OF SC HAS BEEN ASSISTING STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP WITH TRANSPORTATION TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS. IT WAS IN 1971 THAT THE FIRST BUS TRIP WAS MADE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HOUSTON. WHILE THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BUS TRIP TO BALTIMORE ARE NOT COMPLETE AT THIS EARLY DATE, IN ALL PROBABILITY THE BUSES WILL DEPART FOR BALTIMORE ON SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1981, AND WILL RETURN TO S.C. THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1981.

OUR NATIONAL PUBLICATION, THE BRAILLE MONITOR, WILL GIVE MORE DETAILS OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. HOWEVER, IT IS KNOWN THAT THE SAME FACILITIES UTILIZED IN 1978 FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL AGAIN BE USED IN 1981. THESE FACILITIES INCLUDE THE LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL, THE HILTON AND THE HOLIDAY INN. WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE FEBRUARY 1981 EDITION OF THE PALMETTO BLIND CONCERNING THE BUS TRIP AND THE 1981 NATIONAL CONVENTION. LET'S HAVE A BIG TURN OUT FOR THE 81 CONVENTION AND RECAPTURE THAT NUMBER ONE SPOT EARNED IN MIAMI IN 1979.

FEDERATIONIST OFFERS READING CENTER CABINET

HERE'S SOMETHING EVERY BLIND PERSON THAT HAS A TALKING BOOK MACHINE OF THE 1972 TO PRESENT DAY MODEL OR A TAPE PLAYER SHOULD HAVE ... A READING CENTER CABINET. THIS CABINET HOLDS A TALKING BOOK MACHINE OR TAPE PLAYER AT ARMCHAIR OR BED HEIGHT AND IS MOUNTED ON CASTERS. IT HAS 3 OTHER SHELVES FOR RECORDS, TAPES, BRAILLE MATTER, ETC. FINISHED IN CLEAR, WALNUT, CHERRY OR MAHOGANY. FREE UPON REQUEST, A BRAILLE SKETCH OR LARGE TYPE DESCRIPTION. WITH MOLDED EDGES, \$95.00; WITH PLAIN EDGES, \$85.00. SEND CHECK, MONEY ORDER OR INQUIRY TO: JOHN POSTMA, 1466 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, BATTLE CREEK, MI. 49017. PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES EXCEPT HAWAII, ALASKA OR PUERTO RICO WHICH IS HIGHER. ALLOW 4 TO 6 WEEKS DELIVERY.

PRESIDENT STRIBLING GETTING MESSAGE ACROSS

MR. JOE STRIBLING, PRESIDENT OF THE OCONEE CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC IS GETTING HIS MESSAGE CONCERNING BLINDNESS ACROSS TO THE PUBLIC. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW PRESIDENT STRIBLING HAS BEEN WRITING ARTICLES FOR THE VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS IN OCONEE COUNTY. HIS ARTICLES CONTAIN MANY HELPFUL TIPS CONCERNING BLINDNESS. AS A RESULT OF THE ARTICLES A NUMBER OF PERSONS HAVE GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH MR. STRIBLING. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHAPTER HAS INCREASED AND ATTENDANCE IS UP. OTHER CHAPTER PRESIDENTS WOULD DO WELL TO EMULATE MR. STRIBLING IN WORKING WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE NEWSPAPERS. OUT HATS ARE OFF TO YOU PRESIDENT STRIBLING AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

IN MEMORIAM

IN RECENT WEEKS THE NFB OF SC HAS LOST SEVERAL MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH.

IN OCTOBER MRS. MARY FARR VARNADORE PASSED AWAY AFTER A LONG ILLNESS. MARY HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. SHE WAS A LOYAL AND DEVOTED MEMBER AND SERVED THE CHAPTER IN SEVERAL CAPACITIES. SHE WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A HARD WORKER AND WOULD ALWAYS PITCH IN AND DO HER PART. A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO IN MARCH WHEN THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER WAS INVOLVED IN THE ANNUAL BBO CANVAS MARY WAS ONE OF THE VERY FEW WHO BRAVED SNOW AS SHE FELT THE CANVAS HAD TO GO ON. MARY WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. ALSO, IN OCTOBER FRANK ETTERS A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE SPARTANBURG CHAPTER PASSED AWAY. HE TOO WAS A FAITHFUL MEMBER AND WAS SUPPORTIVE OF HIS CHAPTER'S WORK. HE NOT ONLY PARTICIPATED IN CHAPTER ACTIVITIES BUT WAS ALWAYS IN ATTENDANCE AT STATE CONVENTIONS. ON NOVEMBER 3TH MRS. WILMA GREEN OF THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER PASSED AWAY. MRS. GREEN WAS A RELATIVELY NEW MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION. IT IS RECALLED THAT MRS. GREEN WENT TO ROCKY BOTTOM DURING THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND WITH THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER AND GREATLY ENJOYED THE RETREAT. SHE WAS FACINATED BY THE CAMP AND WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO A RETURN VISIT. THE NFB OF SC EXTENDS SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THESE DEPARTED MEMBERS WHO WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.

1981 SEMINARS SCHEDULED

THE ANNUAL STATE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND, ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1981. ANOTHER LARGE ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED. THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS NOW LOOKED UPON AS A MINI-CONVENTION AS IT TAKES PLACE ABOUT MIDWAY BETWEEN ANNUAL CONVENTIONS. FEDERATIONISTS THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA WILL WANT TO MARK JANUARY 10TH ON THEIR 1981 CALENDAR AS ONCE AGAIN THIS WILL BE A MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENJOYABLE SEMINAR. ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1981, THERE WILL BE A SEMINAR FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS. THUS, THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE SERVING IN THESE OFFICES SHOULD BE MAKING PLANS TO BE PRESENT. WHILE THE JANUARY 31ST SEMINAR WILL BE HELPFUL TO ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS IT WILL ESPECIALLY BE VALUABLE TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE SERVING IN THESE OFFICES FOR THE FIRST TIME.

CHAPTERS ORGANIZED IN PICKENS AND MYRTLE BEACH

CHAPTER 20 AND 21 WERE ADDED TO THE NFB OF SC IN OCTOBER. ON FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 3RD, THE PICKENS COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC WAS FINALIZED. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BLIND PERSONS HAD BEEN CONTACTED IN THE PICKENS COUNTY AREA.

THESE PERSISTANT EFFORTS WERE SUCCESSFULLY CLIMAXED WHEN THE PICKENS COUNTY CHAPTER BECAME A REALITY ON OCTOBER 3RD AT A MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. THERON CRENSHAW OF PICKENS. PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE PICKENS COUNTY BLIND WERE HELD AT ROCKY BOTTOM. THE NEW OFFICERS OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CHAPTER ARE: PRESIDENT, MIKE KEASLER, VICE PRESIDENT, JENNIE AIKEN, AND SECRETARY, SAM HARRIS. MIKE KEASLER IS EMPLOYED WITH THE BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC CO-OP. A CLEMSON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, MIKE IS YOUTHFUL AND ENTHUSIASTIC WHICH WILL PROVE HELPFUL IN HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE CHAPTER. ATTENDING THE OCTOBER 3RD ORGANIZING MEETING WERE PRESIDENT DONALD CAPPS AND WIFE BETTY AS WELL AS SUZANNE BRIDGES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND. JOE STRIBLING, PRESIDENT OF THE OCONEE CHAPTER AND HIS WIFE MARY LOUISE WERE ALSO PRESENT. PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 3RD MEETING SUSIE HAD WORKED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT PICKENS COUNTY CALLING ON BLIND PERSONS. THE NFB OF SC IS PROUD OF THIS NEW PICKENS COUNTY CHAPTER AND WILL SUPPORT IT IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, MYRTLE BEACH BECAME THE 21ST CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC. AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WAS HELD AT THE WESTERN SIZZLIN STEAK HOUSE IN MYRTLE BEACH ATTENDED BY SOME 17 PERSONS. PRESIDING OVER THE MEETING WAS NFB OF SC PRESIDENT, DONALD CAPPS. FOR SOME TIME MRS. MERCEDES ROYAL WHO RESIDES IN MYRTLE BEACH BUT HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CONWAY CHAPTER HAS BEEN SEARCHING OUT BLIND PERSONS IN THE MYRTLE BEACH AREA WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. MERCEDES IS PRESIDENT OF THE NEW MYRTLE BEACH CHAPTER AND WE CONGRATULATE HER ON THIS HONOR. OTHER OFFICERS ARE: VICE PRESIDENT, MARION SPIEGNER, SECRETARY, ERNEST HENION, TREASURER, MRS. MARY CARR AND SOCIAL DIRECTOR, T. J. SCHUDEL. ONCE AGAIN PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 25TH MEETING, SUSIE BRIDGES WENT TO MYRTLE BEACH AND WORKED WITH MERCEDES TO FINALIZE THE FORMATION OF THE CHAPTER. THE STATE ORGANIZATION IS EXTREMELY PLEASED OVER ITS TWO NEW CHAPTERS IN PICKENS AND MYRTLE BEACH. ALREADY THE NEW PICKENS COUNTY CHAPTER HAS ADOPTED A STATE PROJECT AS IT HAS ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DECORATING OSTERNECK COTTAGE FOR CHRISTMAS. FURTHERMORE, THE CHAPTER ASSURES PRESIDENT CAPPS THAT OSTERNECK COTTAGE WILL BE ALL DECKED OUT FOR CHRISTMAS IN TIME FOR THE DECEMBER 6TH & 7TH SEMINAR. FINALLY, PLANS ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY FOR THE FORMATION OF THE TWENTY-SECOND CHAPTER AS THE GOAL OF THE NFB OF SC IS TO HAVE A FEDERATION CHAPTER IN EVERYONE OF THE 46 COUNTIES OF THE STATE.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND

BY SUZANNE BRIDGES

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND (JOB FOR SHORT) IS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLIND PERSONS, TO CREATE A BETTER CLIMATE AMONG EMPLOYERS, AND TO ASSIST BLIND PERSONS IN THE DETAILS OF SECURING JOBS. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. DUANE GERSTENDERGER, ONE PERSON IN EACH STATE HAS BEEN ASKED TO BE THE JOB COORDINATOR FOR THAT STATE. THE COORDINATOR RECEIVES ON A PERIODIC BASIS BULLETINS ON CASSETTE. THESE BULLETINS TELL ABOUT JOB OPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND GIVE OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING JOB OPPORTUNITIES. IT YOU ARE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, YOU NEED TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR IN SOUTH CAROLINA WHO IS SUZANNE BRIDGES OR WITH JOB HEADQUARTERS AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE BLIND IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND. IF YOU KNOW OF A JOB OPENING, LET YOUR STATE COORDINATOR OR JOB HEADQUARTERS KNOW OF THAT OPENING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT YOU WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SERVICES OF JOB, WRITE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND, 1800 JOHNSON STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230 OR TELEPHONE 1-800-633-7518. ALSO BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN WRITING TO JOB HEADQUARTERS OR TO YOUR STATE COORDINATOR. NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, WORK EXPERIENCE, JOB PREFERENCE, AND ANY OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION. ALSO, PLEASE INDICATE HOW YOU LEARNED OF JOB. INFORMATION ABOUT JOB AND ABOUT JOBS IS BEING DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO REGIONAL LIBRARIES FOR THE BLIND AS WELL AS TO THE JOB COORDINATORS. A JOB PULLETIN; DEAF-BLIND EDITIONS IN BRAILLE IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE. PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO BLIND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT NOW WORKING, HOWEVER, ANY BLIND PERSON WHO IS WORKING WHO BELIEVES THAT HE OR SHE IS UNDEREMPLOYED OR SIMPLY WISHES TO MAKE A CHANGE SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CONTACT JOB. JOB HAS PRODUCED 10 PUBLIC SERVICE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE THE POTENTIAL OF THE BLIND TO DO A GREAT VARIETY OF WORK. THOSE ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT AFFECT EMPLOYMENT OF THE BLIND, AND THEY HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO RADIO STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. PERIODICALLY SEMINARS FOR JOB APPLICANTS WHO ARE BLIND WILL BE HELD. WORKSHOPS FOR PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS AND OTHER PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR HIRING ARE ALSO BEING HELD. IF THERE IS AN EVENT IN YOUR AREA OF THE STATE FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO DRAW ON THE RESOURCES OF JOB PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT JOB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OR THE STATE COORDINATOR.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND HAVE WISHED FOR A NATIONAL REFERRAL AND SUPPORT SERVICE FOR BLIND JOB APPLICANTS FOR MANY YEARS. WE ARE INDEED EXCITED ABOUT THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND PROGRAM. IT IS A BIG STEP FORWARD TOWARD OUR GOAL OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLIND AMERICANS.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE TO HOST '81 STATE CONVENTION

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE WILL HOST THE 1981 CONVENTION OF THE NFB OF SC THE WEEKEND OF JULY 31, AUGUST 1 & 2, 1981. LOCATED AT CLINTON IN LAURENS COUNTY, PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE WAS FOUNDED IN 1880 AND IS THEREFORE CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANIVERSARY. ROOM RATES ARE AN INCREDIBLE \$7.00 FOR SINGLES AND \$14.00 FOR DOUBLES. CONVENTION DELEGATES IF THEY CHOOSE MAY ALSO BRING THEIR CHILDREN AND PETS. WHILE FEDERATION OFFICIALS FEEL THAT THE HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS AT PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE WILL BE COMFORTABLE, A HOLIDAY INN IS ONLY 5 MINUTES AWAY BY AUTOMOBILE AND MAY BE UTILIZED IF PREFERRED. OF COURSE, HOLIDAY INN RATES WILL BE MUCH GREATER. WHILE THERE ARE NEARBY RESTAURANTS PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE OFFICIALS ARE MAKING THEIR DINING HALL AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEALS THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION. AS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO SPIRALLING HOTEL RATES AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP, FEDERATION OFFICIALS HAVE TURNED TO STATE UNIVERSITIES AND PRIVATE COLLEGES FOR CONVENTION ACCOMMODATIONS. IN THE FUTURE OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE WILL BE CONSIDERED INCLUDING CLEMSON UNIVERSITY, THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON, WINTHROP COLLEGE, LANDER COLLEGE, FURMAN UNIVERSITY AND WOFFORD COLLEGE, ETC. OF COURSE, DEPENDING UPON THEIR OVERALL FACILITIES. THE LAURENS COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE NFB OF SC WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE A GREAT HOST FOR THE 1981 CONVENTION. MORE DETAILS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE PALMETTO BLIND. HOWEVER, RESERVATIONS WILL AGAIN BE MADE THROUGH THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY DONALD CAPPS

IT HARDLY SEEMS POSSIBLE BUT ONCE AGAIN WE ARE ENTERING INTO THE THANKSGIVING SEASON. UNQUESTIONABLY, ALL OF US HAVE MANY THINGS FOR WHICH TO BE THANKFUL. THE NFB OF SC AND THE BLIND OF THE STATE HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN 1980 AND WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE. WHILE MANY CHALLENGES LIE AHEAD IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT WE PAUSE DURING THE THANKSGIVING SEASON TO GIVE THANKS FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS.

WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED MATERIALLY AND OTHERWISE. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN MANY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. SPEAKING OF MATERIAL BLESSINGS, DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, NFB OF SC PROGRAMS INCLUDE THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A \$75,000 EXPANSION OF THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND, AN \$80,000 EXPANSION OF OSTERNECK COTTAGE AT ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING AREA AT THE FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND AT A COST IN EXCESS OF \$15,000. WHILE THERE IS STILL SOME INDEBTEDNESS ON OSTERNECK COTTAGE AND THE CENTER'S PARKING LOT, UNDOUBTEDLY THIS INDEBTEDNESS WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED. IN 1980 THE NFB OF SC EXPERIENCED SUBSTANTIAL MEMBERSHIP GROWTH WITH THREE NEW CHAPTERS BEING ORGANIZED IN WALTERBORO, (LOW COUNTRY), PICKENS AND MYRTLE BEACH. THESE THREE NEW CHAPTERS HAVE BROUGHT INTO THE FEDERATION BLIND SOUTH CAROLINIANS UNKNOWN BEFORE BUT WHO NOW JOIN US IN THIS BIG PROGRAM OF SERVING THE BLIND. OUR MEMBERS CONTINUE TO BE FEATURED IN ARTICLES APPEARING IN NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. NOT ONLY DO THESE ARTICLES FEATURE FEDERATION MEMBERS BUT THEY ALSO FOCUS CONTINUING PUBLIC ATTENTION UPON BLINDNESS. WE, OF THE FEDERATION, CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT PUBLIC ATTITUDES MUST IMPROVE IF CONDITIONS AMONG THE BLIND ARE TO IMPROVE. THUS, PUBLIC EDUCATION CONCERNING BLINDNESS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE FEDERATION. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH OUR MANY VALUABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS OUTSIDE THE FEDERATION BUT WHO ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN AND WORKING TO IMPROVE SERVICE TO THE BLIND. AS STATE PRESIDENT, WE ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF MANY OF OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE BEING RECOGNIZED AND EXCEPTING NEW RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE BLIND. ALL OF US MUST CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO IMPROVE OUR GOOD TRACK RECORD AS MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. WE NEED TO ORGANIZE MORE CHAPTERS, IMPROVE THE FUNDING OF OUR PROGRAMS, AND ENLIST EVEN MORE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN OUR PROGRAM OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND. IT IS ALWAYS A GOOD TIME TO EVALUATE OUR STEWARDSHIP IN TERMS OF TIME, ENERGY AND RESOURCES. FINALLY, WE HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE A BLESSED AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON.

FINAL THOUGHT

"NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF PERSISTENCE. TALENT WILL NOT; NOTHING IS MORE COMMON THAN UNSUCCESSFUL MEN WITH TALENT. GENIUS WILL NOT; UNREWARDED GENIUS IS ALMOST A PROVERB. EDUCATION WILL NOT; THE WORLD IS FULL OF EDUCATED DEFECTS. PERSISTENCE AND DETERMINATION ALONE ARE OMNIPOTENT."

The Palmetto Blind

National Federation of the Blind of S. C.
(formerly the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)
119 S. Kilbourne Road
Columbia, S. C. 29205



FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND

*American Association of the Blind
15 N. 16th St.
New York, N.Y.*



The Palmetto Blind

The Voice of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina



*"...and
Justice
For All"*

See story page one.

FEBRUARY 1981



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial Foreword	1
And Justice For All	1
Rocky Bottom Update	2
A Thank You Note.	4
Retreat For Blind Announced	4
First Companionship Day of 1981 a Big Success	4
'Spirit' is Good	4
That's Loyalty and Devotion	5
What Is the National Federation of the Blind?	5
1981 Statewide Seminar Biggest and Best	8
Irmo Student Uses Instructional Radio	10
Federation Center Gains Staff Assistant	11
Seminar For Presidents and Vice Presidents Held	12
From The President's Desk	13

THE PALMETTO BLIND

The Voice of
The National Federation of the Blind
of South Carolina (Formerly The
South Carolina Aurora Club
of the Blind, Inc.)

Editor: Donald C. Capps

Published Quarterly

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, formerly known as The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, is chartered under the laws of the state of South Carolina to promote the social, spiritual and economic well-being of all the blind of South Carolina.

The *Palmetto Blind* is provided free of charge by The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina to all blind South Carolinians and other interested persons, and is available in print, audio cassette editions, and braille from The Federation Center of the Blind.

Readers who receive the audio cassette editions are requested to handle the tapes with

care and to *always return them promptly* for the benefit of other users. If you should receive a bad tape, please let the Center know by dropping us a note enclosed with the bad cassette so that appropriate action may be taken to remove that cassette from our library. Braille and print copies may be retained by recipients for their personal libraries.

If you or a friend wish to remember The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, in your will you can do so by employing the following language:

"I give, devise and bequeath unto The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, P. O. Box 4174, Columbia, S.C. The sum of \$_____ (or "_____ percent of my net estate", or "the following stocks and bonds:_____") to be used for its worthy purposes on behalf of blind persons and to be held and administered by direction of its Executive Committee and Board of Directors."



EDITORIAL FOREWORD

This is the first commercially printed edition of the "Palmetto Blind." After relying upon mimeograph machines for nearly 25 years operated manually and electrically, "Palmetto Blind" readers will appreciate the new format. It seems appropriate that the first commercially printed issue of the "Palmetto Blind" has as its

main focus "And Justice for All."

In addition, beginning with this issue, the "Palmetto Blind" will be available in braille. If you would like a copy of this edition and future issues in braille, please call 254-3777 or write the Federation Center of the Blind.

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Legislation has been introduced in both houses of the South Carolina General Assembly which would assure nondiscriminatory treatment of prospective blind jurors. The legislation has strong support in both the Senate and House of Representatives. However, there is some opposition to the legislation which comes primarily from members of the legislature who are practicing attorneys. It should be pointed out, however, that many attorneys in the legislature do support the legislation.

While there are a number of co-sponsors in both the Senate and House the chief Senate author is Senator Hyman Rubin of Richland County with Representative Joyce Hearn of Richland County being the chief author of the House bill. The legislation also has strong bipartisan support.

Those legislators, hopefully few in number, in opposition to the legislation have generally expressed the viewpoint that blind persons acting as jurors would experience difficulty in evaluating demonstrative evidence. The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina has published a special brochure entitled "And Justice For All." In this brochure the NFB of SC has addressed the matter of blind persons evaluating demonstrative evidence as well as other issues which have been raised. The brochure reads as follows:

If Justice is Blind, Why Not Jurors? *The State* - May 5, 1979.

Blind Justice, *The Evening Post* - Feb. 12, 1979.

Blind Jurors? Why Not? *The Columbia Record* - April 23, 1979.

When summoned for jury duty, many people look for excuses to avoid their civic responsibility to serve as jurors.

Not so with Mrs. Mattie B. Gatlin, a blind Charlestonian . . . "I've voted in about every

election and I consider jury duty a privilege." Following years of waiting for her opportunity to serve, however, Mrs. Gatlin was dismissed as a juror by a circuit court judge. The law cited in her disqualification states that ". . . no person shall be qualified to serve as a juror in any court in this state if . . . he is incapable by reason of mental or physical infirmities to render efficient jury duty."

"I'm an intelligent person and a very impartial person," said Mrs. Gatlin in response to her dismissal. In an expression of concern and dissatisfaction with this denial of her civic right, Mrs. Gatlin observed the proceedings of the court session for which she was summoned. Her experience as a spectator strengthened her affirmation that she and other blind persons could render efficient jury service. She and many others are seeking legislative change to insure the rights of first class citizenship for blind people.

The Blind can Judge Facts

Blind men and women participate in our state and country as judges, attorneys, legislators, elected officials, voters and taxpayers; and when permitted, the blind serve as jurors.

"The blind person's judgement is as sound as anyone else's . . . I would jump at the chance to have a blind juror who wants to serve over someone who is forced to serve."—Senator Paul Cantrell, Charleston Attorney.

Interestingly, blind persons can and do serve in the sensitive positions of judges from supreme court justices to family court judges, but are not qualified to sit as jurors with eleven other sighted jurors to determine questions of fact.

In a timely university study a full trial was acted out for a group of students in which the

testimony of the plaintiff and the defendant was read to the jury. Pictures of the plaintiff and the defendant were presented to the jury whose final vote was two-to-one in favor of the pretty plaintiff. The exact same case was presented to another group of students only this time the pictures were switched. The second jury decided again by a two-to-one margin for the pretty woman, who was now the defendant in the same action. This illustration demonstrates that in some instances the facts may not be seen as clearly by the sighted as by the Blind.

Did You Know?

Until recent years women and blacks shared the same exclusion from jury service experienced by the blind today.

Under South Carolina law today "... no person shall be qualified to serve as a juror in any court in this State if: (1) He has been convicted in a state or federal court of record of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year. (2) He is unable to read, write, speak, or understand the English language. (3) He is incapable by reason of mental or physical infirmities to render efficient jury service. (4) He has less than a sixth-grade education or its equivalent."

Blind people are successfully participating in all areas of society as professionals, businessmen, teachers, students, attorneys, and more - and making reasonable and important decisions every day.

The term legal blindness covers a vast range of visual disorders from total blindness to a visual acuity of 20/200 or a field degree of 20 degrees.

Blind people utilize alternative techniques and technology in their daily lives to "see"

what the sighted public sees. Perception is not limited to the visual act of seeing, nor is judgement unique to persons who see.

Blind people want to serve as jurors. As voters and tax payers - and most importantly as citizens of the United States, blind South Carolinians deserve equal treatment.

Legal blindness should not disqualify an otherwise qualified juror.

The term physical infirmity has not been applied uniformly to all blind people. Some judges have on occasion permitted blind people to serve as competent jurors. Uniformity of the law is needed to insure the right of all qualified legally blind persons to serve as jurors.

As We See It

Section 14-7-810 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina should be amended to read as follows: "In addition to any other provision of law, no person shall be qualified to serve as a juror in any court in this state if: (3) He is incapable by reason of mental or physical infirmities to render efficient jury service. Legal blindness shall not disqualify an otherwise qualified juror."

It is a well known fact that characteristics such as age, sex, occupation, race, and personality traits of prospective jurors are carefully scrutinized by attorneys as they select strikes. If an attorney believes that a blind person will inhibit justice in a particular case he should exercise his preemptory strikes in the same manner as he would for others whom he might judge undesirable for his case.

There is none so blind as he who will not see . . . Please support the right of qualified blind persons to serve on juries.

ROCKY BOTTOM UPDATE

Since the November 1980 edition of the "Palmetto Blind" in which readers were brought up to date on Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind there has been continuing progress. On Saturday, November 29th, a gigantic garage sale was held at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia. It was a highly successful event netting Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind profits in excess of \$5,000. Members of the Richland-Lexington County Campaign for Rocky Bottom

devoted literally hundreds of hours to this project and are to be highly commended. In addition to the badly needed profits the Rocky Bottom project also realized an added benefit by virtue of hundreds of Columbians and others who attended the garage sale and became familiar with the Rocky Bottom program. A special word of thanks goes to Len Hathaway of WIS Radio who made on-the-scene live broadcasts throughout the day.

Rocky Bottom Seminar Held

During the weekend of December 6 and 7, 1980, a state board meeting and seminar were held at the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind. The South Carolina Baptist Convention joined the NFB of SC in sponsoring the two day event. Miss Bernice Popham along with Rev. and Mrs. Jerry St. John of the Missions Department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention presented programs on both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. They were in keeping with the Christmas season and were greatly enjoyed by the some 40 persons in attendance. Most of Saturday afternoon was set aside for a thorough discussion of the legislation dealing with prospective blind jurors.

On Saturday evening, for the first time, there was a gala Christmas party at Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind participated in by blind citizens from throughout the state. Both Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer were in attendance. The group enjoyed singing Christmas songs not to mention consuming dozens of cookies and other goodies contributed by all.

During Sunday morning the entire Rocky Bottom program was reviewed in detail with special emphasis on continuing development. The theme of the session was "Together We Will Succeed." The two day conference was productive.

Camp Has New Caretaker

Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind has a new caretaker. She is Mrs. Eunice Carver who, along with her husband Mr. Tom Carver, is residing in the private apartment at Osterneck Cottage. Both Mr. and Mrs. Carver are long-time community residents. Mrs. Carver assumed her new position the first part of January. Mrs. Carver was selected from among a number of applicants for the position. NFB of SC officials feel fortunate in acquiring the services of Mrs. Carver. As life-long community residents the Carvers seem ideally suited for the Rocky Bottom program. Federation officials look forward to a long and meaningful relationship with the Carvers. Those of you from throughout the state who visit Rocky Bottom will certainly want to extend the hand of fellowship and goodwill to our new friends - the Carvers.

Reception For Rocky Bottom Community Held

A reception for the Rocky Bottom community was held at Osterneck Cottage on Friday evening, January 16th. NFB of SC President, Donald Capps, gave a progress report to the gathering. There were also comments by Suzanne Bridges, Executive Director of the Federation Center of the Blind, Jerry Whittle, Staff Assistant of the Federation Center and Mr. Joe Stribling, President of the Oconee County Chapter. President Capps introduced the new caretaker, Mrs. Eunice Carver, who also spoke briefly. This was followed by a question and answer session.

The Rocky Bottom community demonstrated a genuine concern in this unique program of service to the blind. Mrs. Carver, serving as hostess for the reception, prepared refreshments which were enjoyed by all. It was a most productive evening and generated much good will for all concerned. There will be future receptions at Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind, which is proud to be a part of the Rocky Bottom community.

Recreational Programs Being Planned

Recreational programs for the summer of 1981 for Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind are being planned. There have been meetings with a number of interested citizens including several officials of the Lions Clubs in the upper part of the state. It is hoped that funding will be found to construct a swimming pool which would enhance recreational activities at the camp. There are also plans to develop an area which lies between Osterneck Cottage and Chimney Top Creek for recreational activity. This would include a patio and facilities for outdoor cookouts and picnicking. An architectural blueprint for this recreational area has already been completed. Naturally the completion of these plans are contingent upon necessary funding and related services.

Newsletter Established

A newsletter outlining progress of the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind program from its inception two years ago has been sent to camp contributors and friends. The NFB of SC is appreciative of the widespread support of the

camp. The newsletter is designed to keep supporters up to date on the Camp's progress. Federation officials recognize that the ongoing progress of the Rocky Bottom program is dependent largely upon the continuing interest and support of many citizens throughout the state.

A THANK YOU NOTE

(Editor's note: The NFB of SC is pleased to report that Mrs. Doris Bell, wife of NFB of SC First Vice President, Bob Bell, is now making good progress after spending a number of weeks in the hospital.)

Let us take this means to thank each and every member of the NFB of SC for all the many ways they have expressed their love and concern for me during my illness. I am not well yet but I am very much better. I know that your prayers have played a large part in this healing. May God bless each and every one of you - Love to All - Doris Bell

RETREAT FOR BLIND ANNOUNCED

Miss Bernice Popham of the Missions Department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention writes as follows: The Missions Department is planning a Retreat for the Blind, April 3-4 1981. It will be held at the White Oak Conference Center which is located near Winnsboro. The retreat will begin Friday at 5:00 p.m. with registration, dinner at 6:00 p.m. and will close at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. The cost will be \$15.00 per person with three to five in a motel type room or \$18.00 per person with two in a room. In addition there will be a \$3.00 registration fee.

The following statement is a new policy at White Oak. "A deposit of \$10.00 per person is required. If a cancellation is made two months in advance, the full amount will be refunded. If a cancellation is made 30-59 days in advance, one-half of the deposit will be refunded. There will be no refund for cancellations made less than a month prior to a meeting."

To register, send your name, address and phone number to White Oak Conference Center, White Oak, S.C. 29176. Please state that you are registering for the Retreat for the Blind.

A deposit of \$10.00 must accompany your letter. Just remember, April 3-4, 1981 are the dates.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Bernice Popham

FIRST COMPANIONSHIP DAY OF 1981

A BIG SUCCESS

by Jerry Whittle

On Thursday, January 29th, twenty-two blind persons enjoyed a tour of the State House in Columbia. This tour was a part of the Companionship Day program of the Federation Center of the Blind. Each month a different trip is planned for persons interested in the program. On the tour of the State House, everyone enjoyed seeing the solid silver sword which is located in the Senate side of the historic building, and the gold and silver mace which is found on the House side. Both the House and the Senate are panelled in Honduras Mahogany. Vermont marble and brass over one hundred years old are also part of the decor. We were also allowed to see how the members of the House of Representatives vote by computer. We also made pictures of the group on the steps of the State House. After the tour, we marched over to good ole McDonald's for a late lunch. What a day! We didn't get Miss Annie Toner home until 6:00 p.m. If you would like to participate in our Companionship Day activities and are not on our list, please call 254-3777. The best pains are growing pains.

'SPIRIT' IS GOOD

From the *Lancaster News*, Monday, December 8, 1980

"Spirit" among members of Lancaster County's Federation of the Blind is good, according to State Federation president Donald Capps.

Capps was in Lancaster last week to attend a Christmas gathering for members and friends of the county federation at Douglas Presbyterian Church.

Reggie Baker, chapter president, said he doesn't know what the total membership in the Lancaster chapter is but he said it is growing by "leaps and bounds." He estimates membership has grown by about 100 to 150 percent in the last five months.

"And we have at least five potential new members that I know of right now," he said, reaching down to pat his dog Licorice.

Baker, 30, became blind as a result of diabetes. Since he became chapter president last summer he has been "beating the bushes" for new members. "I'm planning to work the Kershaw area next, probably in February," He said, "because it hasn't even been touched yet."

"It's a job," Baker said of being chapter president but he said it also has its rewards.

"We were planning just a small Christmas gathering at first," Baker said, a long, well-filled table of food behind him. "And then I went out and talked to some merchants about sponsoring it and as it has ended up we haven't had to take a cent from our treasury to pay for this."

Capps, who in addition to being state president is also editor of the quarterly magazine "The Palmetto Blind," said his stop in Lancaster is just one of many that he makes year-round, and especially at Christmas.

"I've already been to Christmas parties at Chester, Rocky Bottom and Rock Hill and I'm going to Columbia and Seneca next week," he said. "I try to get to as many as possible."

Rocky Bottom is a newly opened camp for the blind in South Carolina located at the base of Sassafras Mountain in Pickens County.

On a more serious note, Capps said the state federation is "real proud" of the Lancaster chapter. "The spirit is particularly good in Lancaster County," Capps said.

Through The Palmetto Blind magazine, available in print and on tapes, Capps said the Federation of the Blind keeps South Carolinans informed about blindness. "We try to run success stories on various blind people around the state. And we also include legislation that may be of interest and we list job opportunities."

But probably the most important function of the magazine and the federation is to keep the general public better informed about what it means to be blind.

"In Lancaster County, for example," Capps said, "people haven't known about blindness. But with the organization of the Lancaster chapter we are able to help bridge the gap on blindness. An organization can do a lot to educate the public."

"The blind," Capps said, "are better off when they are assimilated into society. We're just a cross section of the population."

THAT'S LOYALTY AND DEVOTION!

PORTERS HAVE 25 YEARS OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Ivy and Elizabeth Porter have attended every meeting of the Charleston Chapter since its inception in 1955. That means that they have a perfect record of attendance for over 25 years. The Porters are among the charter members of the Charleston Chapter. Their meritorious record is probably unparalleled in the entire country among Federationists. In addition to their faithful presence at all chapter meetings, Ivy and Elizabeth have missed only one state convention in a quarter of a century of service. They are more than just faithful attenders. Both of the Porters can be depended on to help out in fund raising and all other activities of their local chapter. Their unselfish service to fellow Federationists is an admirable example of dependability in a time when apathy dominates much of society. Any organization would love to have dependable and devoted members like Ivy and Elizabeth Porter to swell their ranks. Congratulations Porters on a magnificent

record of service to the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. We hope to be congratulating you after 50 years of perfect attendance.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF SOUTH CAROLINA?

(Editor's Note: This new brochure is now available to members and the public.)

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina is a non-profit eleemosynary private organization of the blind dedicated to improving the social, spiritual, and economic well-being of the blind in South Carolina.

The real problem of blindness is not the loss of eyesight. The real problem is the misunderstanding and lack of information which exist. With proper training and opportunity, blindness can be reduced to a mere physical nuisance.

What is the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina?

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina is an organization of blind people . . . governed by blind people. Interested sighted persons are invited to join as volunteers and associate members. From its founding in Spartanburg in 1944, the organization has grown to include 21 local chapters, two statewide divisions, the Federation Center of the Blind located in Columbia, and the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind located in Pickens County. Chapters are located in Aiken, Anderson, Beaufort, Charleston, Chester, Columbia, Conway, Florence, Greenville, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, Myrtle Beach, the Low Country, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Sumter and Union. The Student Division and the S. C. Blind Vendors Association are also affiliated with the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

What are the purposes of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina?

Social adjustment to blindness, spiritual growth, and economic improvement are goals of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

We must teach the public that blindness does not mean that we are dependent or blessed with special powers.

We must show those who become blind that blindness need not be an end to a happy and fulfilling life. Blind people must learn that a full and "normal" life awaits them with training and opportunity.

We must help blind people find jobs. Many capable blind persons have never had a job. In fact, 70% of those who are able to work cannot find employment.

We must change outmoded laws, correct misconceptions about blindness, and remove attitudinal barriers.

In other words we must work for the equality of blind people — the right to share in the good things in life.

How does the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina help the blind?

Collective Efforts — One of the best medicines for a blind person who is ex-

periencing difficulty in adjusting to blindness is to meet other blind people and learn of their jobs and techniques. Membership in the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina provides an opportunity for participation and restoration of confidence. Through Chapter, Division and State meetings and conventions we express our needs and formulate programs to meet these needs.

Legislative Changes — State programs have always been important to the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. The State Legislature has worked closely with the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in the passage of 18 bills which provide benefits to all blind South Carolinians.

Some of these laws include:

- An exemption on State income taxes.
- Priority in the employment of blind persons in vending facilities.
- Abolishment of the assessment of a percentage of the gross earnings of blind vendors.
- Increased cash assistance to the needy blind.
- Assistance to the blind in voting.
- Establishment of a study committee to investigate employment opportunities and problems of the blind.
- Establishment of a separate state agency for the blind.
- Authorization of a real estate transfer from the Association of the Blind to the S. C. Commission for the Blind.
- Authorization for the construction of an adult training and orientation center by the S. C. Commission for the Blind.
- Regulation of the manufacture and sale of products made by the blind.
- Adoption of the White Cane Law guaranteeing basic rights to the blind.
- The Homestead Exemption Bill.
- Restructuring of the Board of the S. C. Commission for the Blind from 5 to 7 members, 3 of whom must be legally blind.
- The "Right to Work" bill which guarantees priority to blind persons in the operation of vending facilities in state, county, and municipal buildings.

Public Education — We must inform the public about the true nature of blindness — what it is, and what it is not. Through

publications, literature, documentaries, a speakers bureau, and media presentations we strive to correct harmful misconceptions and misinformation about blindness.

Business, civic, church, and professional groups have benefitted from the information shared by the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. Most importantly, however, the blind of our state have learned more about the true nature of blindness.

Counseling and Adjustment — Blindness respects no one. It can happen to anyone, and when it does the affected individual is thrust into an entirely new style of living. With proper help and training a person can make the adjustment to blindness and lead a productive and happy life.

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina provides a positive program of encouragement which stresses the respectability of blindness.

Through the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina several blind persons have been assisted in securing successful job placements. For example, South Carolina's only blind PBX Switchboard Operator was assisted and trained through the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. Blind persons should be tax payers, not tax consumers. We believe in restoring productivity and improving social and economic acceptance of blind people in the community.

Special Programs and Services

CASH AWARDS — Presently, cash awards in excess of \$1,000 are given at the annual convention. These include a home award, scholarships, several honor awards and more.

TRANSPORTATION — The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina and its affiliates annually assist members to attend the National Convention. This is a superb opportunity to acquaint members with national programs and to put them in contact with successful blind persons from throughout the country.

FREE PUBLICATIONS AND LIBRARY SERVICE — The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina publishes a quarterly edition of the *Palmetto Blind*, an informative publication with up-to-date stories of issues which vitally affect the lives of blind South Carolinians. It is available in large print, braille, or cassette. Other literature concerning blindness is available upon request.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE — Interest-free personal loans as well as business loans are provided, and have assisted blind persons in many ways through the years. In distress cases, the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina chapters provide outright financial assistance to members.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE — Whenever a blind person is discriminated against solely on the basis of blindness the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina will provide legal assistance to protect the rights of the blind.

REFERRAL SERVICE — More than thirty-five years of experience has equipped the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina with a wealth of knowledge about services for the blind. If our programs do not address a need, we will refer individuals to the proper agencies for help.

CONVENTIONS AND SEMINARS — Annual conventions, seminars and other meetings are regularly scheduled to provide important information to the blind.

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES — The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina believes in wholesome recreational and social activity and maintains a year round schedule of activities. Besides being a hard-working group, we are a fun group you will enjoy being around.

FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND — Located at 119 S. Kilbourne Road in Columbia, The Federation Center of the Blind serves as the headquarters of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. This Center offers a variety of programs and services which benefit all blind South Carolinians.

ROCKY BOTTOM CAMP OF THE BLIND — The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina operates the only year round camp for the blind in the state. Located in the mountains of Pickens County, Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind provides recreational opportunities for blind South Carolinians of every age.

Why every Blind South Carolinian should be a member of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

If you are blind and live in South Carolina, you have benefitted from the work of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. We are a positive mechanism through

which your voice can be heard, your concerns appreciated, and your goals achieved.

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina is a democratic organization governed by elected officers and a Board of Directors, all of whom must be blind. All officers and directors serve without financial compensation. Beginning with its founder, Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton, a noted educator and minister, the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina has experienced solid quality leadership.

In order that its influence may be felt on a national level, the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina is affiliated with the National Federation of the Blind — the nation's oldest and largest organization open to the blind.

THE COURTESY RULES OF BLINDNESS

When you meet me don't be ill at ease. It will help both of us if you remember these simple points of courtesy:

1. I'm an ordinary person, just blind. Don't shout, or address me as if I were a child. Don't ask my wife, "Does he take cream in his coffee?" Ask me.

2. If I am walking with you, don't grab my arm; let me take yours. I'll keep a half-step behind, to anticipate curbs and steps.

3. I want to know who's in the room with me. Speak when you enter. Introduce me to the others. Include children, and tell me if there's a cat or dog. Guide my hand to a chair.

4. The door of a room or car left ajar is a hazard for me. So are toys on the floor. Watch out for projecting lampshades; I hate to break things.

5. At dinner I will not have trouble with ordinary table skills.

6. Don't avoid words like "see." I use them, too. I'm always glad to see you.

7. I don't want pity. But don't talk about the "wonderful compensations" of blindness. Whatever I've learned has been by hard work.

8. If I'm your houseguest, show me the bathroom, closet, dresser, window, the outlet for my electric razor. The light switch too; I like to know whether the lights are on.

9. I'll discuss blindness with you if you're curious, but it's an old story for me. I have as many other interests as you do.

10. Don't think of me as just a *blind* person. I'm just a person who happens to be blind.

In all 50 states, the law requires drivers to STOP at the sign of an extended white cane. Only the blind may carry white canes. You see more blind persons today, walking alone. Not because there are more of us, but because we have learned to make our own way.

1981 STATEWIDE SEMINAR BIGGEST AND BEST

The 11th annual statewide seminar of the NFB of SC held Saturday, January 10th, at the Federation Center of the Blind was unquestionably the biggest and best to date. No fewer than 168 persons from throughout South Carolina attended the one day conference. The theme of the meeting was "Not Satisfied." Donald Capps, President of the NFB of SC, told the large gathering that there was much reason to be grateful for the good progress which has been made in work with the blind during the past several years. President Capps added, however, that he was "not satisfied" believing that much remains to be done to bring about equality of opportunity for the blind and a better way of life for blind citizens.

The group enjoyed a taped message from Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, President of the National Federation of the Blind. In his message Dr. Jernigan spoke of the NFB trinity, local, state, and

national. He stressed the need for membership support of all three entities.

A new publication "What is the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina?" was presented to the group. President Capps also briefly explained the functions and scope of other organizations and agencies of and for the blind including the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, The South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, the Alumni Association, and the American Council of the Blind of South Carolina. Mrs. Maxine Bowles, Commissioner of the S. C. Commission for the Blind, addressed the seminar. Mrs. Bowles stated that she was "not satisfied" either and pledged her continuing efforts to improve conditions among the blind. In her address Mrs. Bowles presented statistical data showing a much higher percentage of blind persons engaged in occupations earning at least the minimum wage or better.

Suzanne Bridges, Executive Director of the Federation Center of the Blind, and Mrs. Betty Ragsdale, Center Coordinator, presented informative reports. Jerry Whittle, new Staff Assistant at the Federation Center, was introduced to the group. Reports by Miss Bridges and Mrs. Ragsdale included the following information: A listing of services and responsibilities of the Center including coordination of volunteers for transportation, errands, and personal needs; preparation of brochures, sound/slide documentaries, newspaper releases, radio and t.v. spot announcements, and special releases; optacon training; record keeping and correspondence for the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind, NFB of SC, Blind Vendors, Student Division, and various local chapters; processing of Living Memorials and other special projects; implementation of Thanksgiving and Christmas giving programs; library services; referral services; JOB program; arranging state conventions and assisting in arrangements for national conventions and state seminars; preparations for advisory board and state board meetings; organizing new chapters; coordination of Center improvements projects; researching and writing foundation proposals; and arranging public speaking engagements. In addition to hosting and or attending numerous meetings concerning blindness throughout the year, the Center staff handled 5,624 telephone calls and visitors at the Center averaging 22 per day. Six thousand one hundred sixty-six letters or an average of 25 per day were sent out in 1980. Twenty eight hundred print and cassette copies of the Palmetto Blind and 15,400 White Cane letters were mailed in 1980. Seventeen hundred brochures were distributed through the mail or through mall displays. These reports clearly indicated the need for an additional part-time staff person. Both Betty and Suzanne welcome the addition of Jerry Whittle to the

Federation Center staff and look forward to his help in 1981 and the years to follow.

After a delightful luncheon there was a drawing which created considerable excitement. Some 4,000 tickets were sold in connection with the 1981 Baltimore fund. The person selling the winning ticket was to get \$300.00. Mae Abrams was the winner of \$300.00 since she sold the winning ticket. Ronald Lovet of Aiken, who purchased the winning ticket from Mrs. Abrams, also received \$300.00 for a one dollar investment. The winning ticket was drawn by Jerry Whittle. Mr. C. A. Gatlin, State Chairman of the Baltimore fund, added much color and enthusiasm to the drawing. He is due a debt of gratitude for a job well done.

An updated sound/slide documentary of Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The group was brought up to date on the progress of the Rocky Bottom program. This update was followed with a discussion by the group of those ingredients which constitute a 100% member. It was generally felt that a 100% member is a member who attends meetings, local, state and national, and financially supports the entire movement. The group also felt that a 100% member will participate affirmatively in all the programs of the organization. Loyalty in following through on responsibilities was also emphasized. The new "Jury brochure" was also presented. Both the upcoming national and state conventions were discussed in some detail. Shelia Byrd told the group why she participates in the "PAC" program. President Capps told the conference that every Federationist has an obligation to contribute something to the national organization. The seminarians were requested to consider assuming greater responsibility during 1981 and the coming years. It was a most productive and informative meeting with excellent participation.

IRMO STUDENT USES INSTRUCTIONAL RADIO TO OVERCOME SEEING HANDICAP

By: Ron Rader, SCETV Network



Mary Nash, an assistant at the Irmo Middle School media center, discusses taping schedules with Craig Mack.

Irmo middle school student Craig Mack is a very special student. Born with only five percent of his sight, Craig has overcome his handicap through hard work and determination to become an outstanding student, athlete and musician.

Craig's handicap has taken him and his parents through nightmarish years of frustrations and setbacks, but today, at the age of sixteen, he is accepted and respected by both his teachers and fellow students. This respect was hard-earned and came after years of trying and trying again. Next year he will enter the ninth grade and perhaps look toward college and a career in broadcasting.

With the help of learning aids and interested teachers, Craig performs well in his classroom duties. Instructional radio has become a very big part of his life. Each day he tapes his assigned radio lessons and serves as an A-V aide to Ann Taylor, head librarian at the Irmo Middle School Media Center, and her assistants, Mary Nash and Julie Bouleware. Craig carries the cassettes home after school and replays them on a home recorder as part of his regular homework assignments.

Also at night, Craig listens to a special radio receiver that is equipped to pick up a sub-channel for the blind. Programs are broadcast as a part of the S.C. Educational Radio Network and provide a special service to the han-

dicapped. On this channel Craig can hear printed materials such as the daily newspaper or a favorite book read to him.

"Recording interests me," Craig said. "I hope to one day find a career in something related to this. I have always liked listening to the radio, even when I was a little boy I would memorize every station my set would pick up. I would tape entire programs and listen to them later."

"Craig is a big help to me," said Nash, who works with him nearly every day. "He is really a remarkable boy."

Craig has earned respect outside the classroom, too. "Last year he came home one day after school and told me that he was going to sign up for football!" said his mother, Charlotte Mack. "I nearly had a heart attack, but his father and I have always allowed him to make up his own mind. So Jim Littlejohn, his coach, took a special interest in him and he went at it wholeheartedly.

Craig is now the starting defensive middle guard for the Colts and the hardest hitter on the field. "Craig certainly does not mind hitting and getting hit," Littlejohn said. "If everybody had his desire I would have a super team." Following last football season Craig took his talents to the wrestling ring where he made the traveling squad and was awarded a special plaque by his coach at the end of the year. He proudly wears the bright yellow emblmed jacket of the Irmo wrestlers.

Another area of achievement is music. He is an outstanding drummer in the band. He has natural rhythm and the energy to back it up. His parents bought him a drum set and he promptly set up shop in the den where he practices in time to his radio.

"No one is prouder of Craig than we are," said Mrs. Mack. "I believe that he has a future in broadcasting and will go on to college or a TEC school someday. It has taken him sixteen years to prove to others that he is normal, but he has done it — thanks to a few interested people and aids like instructional radio. The other day he told me that he wanted to someday make plenty of money, buy a car and hire a driver — a girl driver."

FEDERATION CENTER GAINS STAFF ASSISTANT

By Suzanne Bridges



FEDERATION CENTER OF THE BLIND

It is hard to believe that I am nearing the completion of my fourth year in work with the blind at the Federation Center of the Blind. My experiences have been broad, and the rewards have far surpassed my greatest expectations. I suppose that I can readily identify with those whose zest for life stems from a sense of purpose and the opportunity to continually expand as a person through a variety of experiences and personal associations. My teacher and mentor in my work with the blind has been and continues to be the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina - in essence, each of you. A professor of mine once said that the best way to insure that you know the information which you have been taught is to turn around and teach it to someone else . . . and that is what I have done. That is what each of us has done. We are a movement of teachers.

All of the above is simply to say that when I began the search for a staff assistant for the Federation Center of the Blind, I could have chosen capable people from throughout our state all of whom are working to improve the life of blind South Carolinians. I had several applications for jobs on file from blind and sighted persons both within the state and outside of South Carolina. As coordinator of the J.O.B. (Job Opportunities for the Blind) program, I have access to a wide network of potential candidates.

A seemingly difficult decision requiring a great deal of thought; however, was clearly simplified when I learned of Jerry Whittle's

desire to work with the blind. Jerry has demonstrated his dedication in the past through his work at the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind as caretaker prior to pursuing his Masters at the University of Tennessee. In expressing his reasons for wanting the position as Staff Assistant at the Federation Center, Jerry said "I am aware that the world is made up of two kinds of people - those who tear down and those who build, those who dream and those who stomp on dreams, those who sit and scoff and doubt and those who move and love and believe. I don't think I have to tell you which group it is that I want to belong to, to be a part of . . . I want to be a helper and not a scoffer in seeing that the dreams of many blind people come true. I want to see blind people attain first-class citizenship, dignity, and acceptance as normal people. I want to work in an atmosphere of service, to do something really worthwhile and lasting for the people I love best, whom I understand best - blind people. All of life is a classroom where you either learn what you don't know or teach what you do know. Therefore, we are all students and teachers. Every time I speak as a blind person I am teaching others of the true nature of blindness, I am helping to clarify, and helping others to understand. I was trained as a teacher and I intend to teach."

Jerry's responsibilities at the Federation Center will include coordinating the Center's volunteer program; assisting in special projects; implementing the Companionship program and other special activities; working with legislative efforts; fund raising for Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind; speaking to civic, community and school groups; assisting in clerical duties; and generally assisting other staff members. Please call on him, as well as Betty and me, to assist you in your needs. The Federation Center of the Blind operates to work with and serve all blind South Carolinians in every way possible. We look forward to hearing from you in 1981. Best wishes for this new year of hope and prosperity for all Americans, blind and sighted alike.

SEMINAR FOR PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS HELD

On Saturday, January 31st, a seminar was held at the Federation Center of the Blind for presidents and vice presidents of chapters and divisions of the NFB of SC. Approximately forty persons attended the one day conference. As an expression of heartfelt gratitude for the recent release of the former hostages and in appreciation of the unity demonstrated throughout the country, a rendition of 'God Bless America' by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir appropriately launched this special seminar.

Donald Capps, President of the NFB of SC, presided over the seminar. After the preliminaries, President Capps, told the chapter and division leaders that the NFB of SC is now strong and influential but that this had not always been the case. Capps reminded the group that twenty-eight years ago in 1953 when he joined the Columbia Chapter there were only two chapters, the other chapter being Spartanburg where the organization was founded. Citing many personal experiences during his twenty-eight years of volunteer service to the blind, Capps pointed out that most accomplishments had come about through hard work. Alluding to the 1950's Capps told of the establishment of the vending stand at the Richland County Courthouse in 1957. He spoke of a week's stay in West Virginia in 1958 in which he participated in a survey of programs for the blind in that state at the Governor's request. The decade of the 60's was busy also as the Federation Center of the Blind was erected and the Commission for the Blind was created. The 1970's were also eventful, as well as controversial, as the Commission for the Blind was lead by three different Commissioners during the 1970's. President Capps reminded the chapter and division leaders that they were fortunate and privileged in being a part of a state organization of the blind which has earned a rich heritage and now has a winning tradition; but Capps reiterated "it has not always been that way."

Continuing, Capps shared with the group some of his thoughts on how a person can become a successful president or leader. Stressing the importance of exemplary personal behavior, Capps told the group that this conduct would not serve as an immunity to criticism but would insulate and undergird an

individual from unjust and unfounded criticism. To be a successful leader, Capps expressed the viewpoint that an individual must put service to others above self.

The group was also reminded that there are certain characteristics which should be avoided by all. Ultrasensitivity to things said and done by others was singled out as a negative force in our lives. Seminararians were told by President Capps that it is essential for leaders to clearly understand the provisions of the Federation constitution. Otherwise, Capps suggested, they would be at a distinct disadvantage in properly carrying out the programs of the Federation. It was pointed out that, in order to be successful, a president must preside both efficiently and fairly. No one wants to attend a disorderly and chaotic meeting. A successful president must also have a clear picture and full understanding of the functions of the organization on all levels, local, state, and national. If this principal is not clearly understood and practiced all three entities will suffer as a result. Seminararians were told that, as president, they must understand their responsibilities and also coordinate the work of other officers and committees as mandated by the Federation constitution. President Capps emphasized the need for strict personal discipline in order to be a successful president. Much is expected of a Federationist and without self-discipline Federation programs will suffer. In order to get the job done, a successful president must follow through. Putting off and procrastinating are harmful and are not suggestive of good leadership. President Capps stressed the importance of presidents staying up to date (so that they will know what's going on and can keep others up to date). Reading all correspondence and publications such as the Palmetto Blind and the Braille Monitor is essential. Emphasis was given to the necessity of each and every president being fair with all members but at the same time being firm. No one respects a president who practices favoritism and is a constant fence straddler. Setting an example is a real strength of any president. Don't ask a member to do something that you would not do yourself. A good president will respect the views of others. Remember that everyone's views are worthy of consideration and that no one likes to have his viewpoint put down.

President Capps told the chapter and Division leaders that a good president will always work for unity within the organization. Disunity and disharmony are always destructive forces. The successful president will strive for equal treatment of all members. He will work to avoid placing any member in an awkward or embarrassing position.

During the seminar, time was taken for the different chapters and divisions to complete their reservations for Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind for 1981. An update of the Rocky Bottom program was also given. This was followed by review of some of the articles of the

Federation constitution including the sections on the purpose and ideals of the organization, membership, and duties of chapter officers. To acquaint new presidents and vice presidents with the internal workings of a chapter or division, there was a discussion of various committees and their functions. Committees must be active and function smoothly if an organization is to be successful. As a learning experience, there was discussion of individual chapter situations and how they should be handled. Throughout the seminar there was good interaction and exchange of ideas which proved helpful. It was a day well spent for those in attendance.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Donald Capps

The February issue of the Palmetto Blind is always kind of special. There are many reasons for this. First there is always the Christmas circuit when we visit local chapters of the NFB of SC throughout the state. Our travels during the Christmas season take us from the seashore to the mountains as Federation chapters are found in all areas of South Carolina from Beaufort to Seneca and from Aiken to Rock Hill. Each year in December we travel several thousands of miles as we try to attend the Christmas parties of at least 10 to 12 chapters. As much as we would like, it is not possible to attend the more than 20 Federation Christmas parties statewide. Christmas is of course a wonderful season of the year. It is good to see hundreds of Federationists throughout South Carolina appropriately observing the Christmas season and to update them on state programs. As a matter of fact during the 1980 Christmas season it is estimated that approximately 1,000 Federationists and their guests participated in Federation Christmas activities. It was not always like that as we can recall when there were only two or three local organizations of the blind in South Carolina which sponsored Christmas parties. This situation changed for the better primarily in the 1970's as many Federation chapters were organized in the decade of the 70's. However, in 1980 three Federation chapters were organized in Myrtle Beach, Pickens, and the Walterboro area.

While it is most enjoyable to visit with many chapters during the Christmas season, and to share in the festivities, it is also gratifying to see the tremendous growth and development statewide. There was a time a few years ago when we knew each and every member of the NFB of SC but there are so many new faces now that this really is not the case anymore. The NFB of SC is big business and represents many worthwhile programs on both a local and state level. During the past few months or since the November 1980 issue of the Palmetto Blind business with the NFB of SC has continued as usual. There have been no fewer than three different seminars during the last few months with statewide representation. Each seminar requires considerable planning as it is a training session designed to equip the participants with as much knowledge and know-how as possible.

The NFB of SC is committed to first class citizenship for all blind citizens. This is why the organization has been working hard statewide to gain support for the passage of the legislation which would guarantee equal treatment for all prospective blind jurors.

The NFB of SC is constantly doing research in many areas. There are also many publications which provide information. Recently there have been brochures on the blind juror legislation as well as an updated version of "What Is the NFB of SC."

The NFB of SC is truly an organization of service. It affords each member an opportunity to participate in many different programs of service. We can only be sorry for those who do not choose to be actively involved. We are especially sorry for that individual who is negative, perhaps spending his or her time in some unproductive cause. It has been our experience that participation in a progressive program with positive thinking is far more preferable and certainly more gratifying. The NFB of SC offers each blind person an opportunity to be involved in a wholesome and positive program. Our track record on behalf of the blind is good and speaks for itself.

IN MEMORIAM

In recent weeks word has been received of the passing of several Federationists. It is with sincere regret that the Palmetto Blind reports the death of Ogden Reed in January. Ogden was a former president of the Aiken Chapter of the NFB of SC. He made many contributions to the growth of the Aiken Chapter and will be greatly missed. The NFB of SC extends sincere sympathy to his widow, Carrie Reed. Also, in January, Mrs. Willa Freeman passed away. Mrs. Freeman was formerly a member of the Columbia Chapter but had moved to North Carolina a number of years ago. She is remembered by long time Columbia members as a very lovely lady. In late 1980, Harold Lawson of our Laurens Chapter passed away. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ruby Lawson, who presently serves as president of the Laurens Chapter. In his memory, Mrs. Lawson recently made a substantial contribution to Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind for which the NFB of SC is grateful. Also, in recognition of Mrs. Lawson's dedication to the Federation, she was the recipient of the annual Robert R. Bell Award presented at the Christmas banquet of the Laurens Chapter. Word has also been received of the death of Mrs. Vera Howard of Fairplay. Mrs. Howard was a faithful member of the Oconee County Chapter. The NFB of SC extends sincere sympathy to all of the families involved.

FINAL THOUGHT

Folks You Like Will Surely Like You

It is a funny thing, but true
But folks you don't like, don't like you.
I don't know why this should be so,
But just the same I always know
If I am "sour" my friends are few
If I am friendly, folks are too.
Sometimes I get up in the morn
A-wishing I was never born
I make of cross remarks a few
And then my family wishes, too
That I had gone some other place
Instead of showing them my face.
But let me change my little tune
And sing, and smile, then pretty soon
The folks around me sing and smile
I guess 'twas catching all the while.
Yes it's a funny thing, but true
That folks you like will sure like you.

(Ida Boswell)

The Palmetto Blind

National Federation of the Blind of S. C.

(formerly the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)

119 S. Kilbourne Road
Columbia, S. C. 29205



FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND

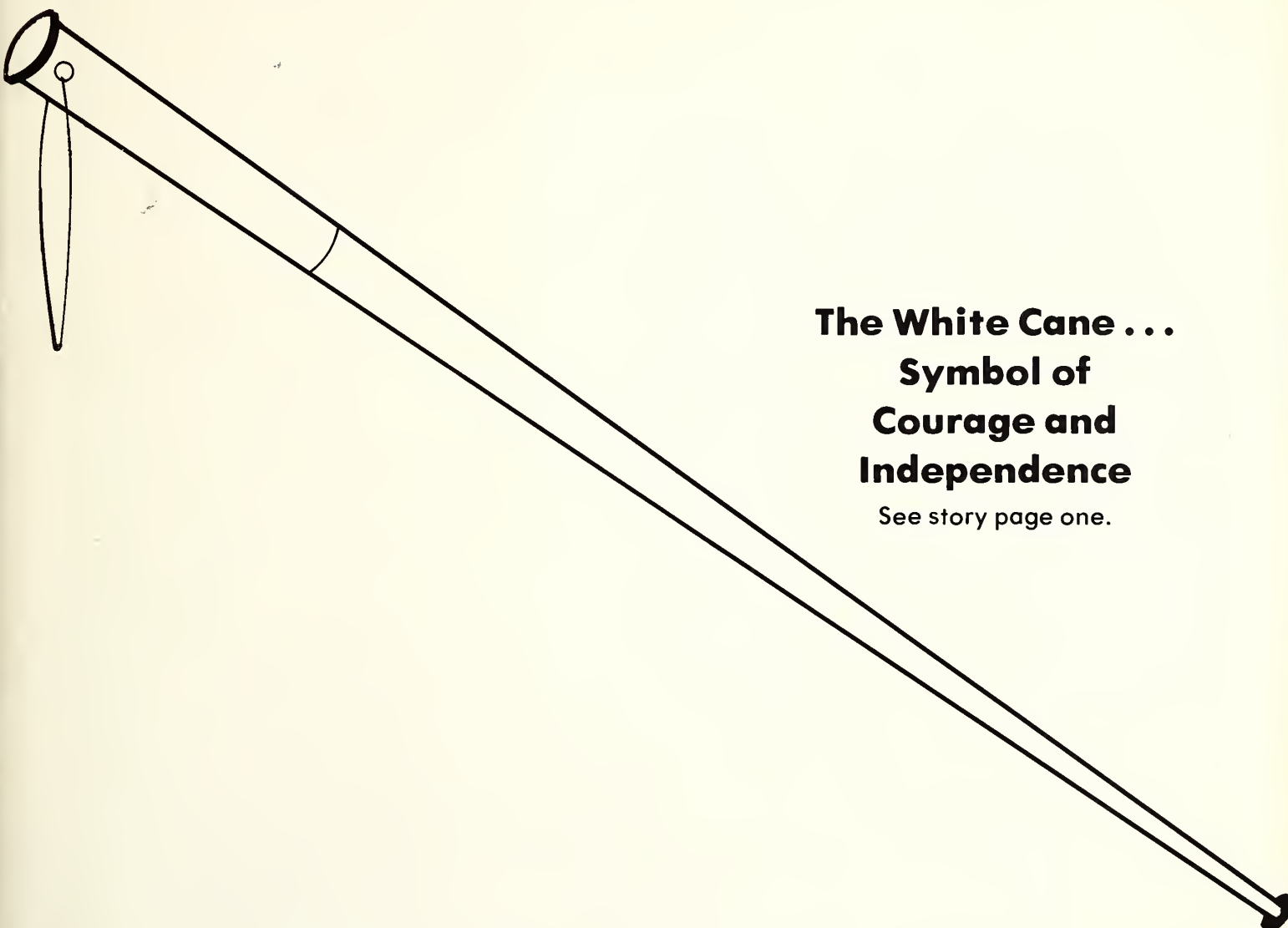
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15 WEST 16TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011

gmk



The Palmetto Blind

The Voice of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina



**The White Cane . . .
Symbol of
Courage and
Independence**

See story page one.

MAY 1981



White Cane Week Celebrates 25th Anniversary in South Carolina	1
Another Business Knows About the White Cane Law.	4
Flashback	5
Colonial Life Observes International Year of the Handicapped	7
From The Spartanburg Herald, March 17, 1981	10
Senate Passes Jury Bill	12
Not of One Mind	14
Dr. Jernigan to Address State Convention	15
Shelia Goes to Nebraska.	15
Baltimore, Here We Come!	15
Time to Apply for 1981 Scholarship and Home Awards	16
Rocky Bottom Update	16
Handbook for Senior Citizens	17
Legislature Expands School's Board of Commissioners	17
In Memoriam.	17
Columbia and Conway Chapters Enjoy Successful Projects	18
Around the Palmetto State	18
From The President's Desk	18
Final Thought.	19

THE PALMETTO BLIND

The Voice of
The National Federation of the Blind
of South Carolina
(Formerly The South Carolina
Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)

Editor: Donald C. Capps

Published Quarterly

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, formerly known as The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, is chartered under the laws of the state of South Carolina to promote the social, spiritual and economic well-being of all the blind of South Carolina.

The *Palmetto Blind* is provided free of charge by The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina to all blind South Carolinians and other interested persons, and is available in print, audio cassette editions, and braille from the Federation Center of the Blind.

Readers who receive the audio cassette editions are requested to handle the tapes with care and to *always return them promptly* for the benefit of other

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If you or a friend wish to remember The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc., also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, in your will you can do so by employing the following language:

"I give, devise and bequeath unto The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, P. O. Box 4174, Columbia, S. C. the sum of \$_____ (or "_____ percent of my net estate", or "the following stocks and bonds:_____") to be used for its worthy purposes on behalf of blind persons and to be held and administered by direction of its Executive Committee and Board of Directors."



White Cane Week Celebrates 25th Anniversary in South Carolina

1981 marks the 25th anniversary of White Cane Week in South Carolina. For a quarter of a century South Carolina has annually observed this special week of May 15th - 21st which was inaugurated nationally more than three decades ago by the National Federation of the Blind. White Cane Week represents a special period of time for organizations of the blind to promote wholesome programs of public education concerning the true nature of blindness — what it is, and what it is not. While White Cane Week is primarily a public education effort, it also affords the public an opportunity to financially support worthwhile services to the blind. Thus, White Cane Week has the dual function of improving public attitudes while simultaneously enabling the public to extend a helping hand.

Literally hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians have been reached through annual direct mail campaigns which have characterized the progress and message of hope among blind South Carolinians. As a result of White Cane Week, thousands of South Carolinians have a better understanding of the true needs of the blind, and the blind have benefitted directly from the financial stability afforded the NFB of SC through White Cane Week proceeds. Several blind persons have become employed as a result of this effort.

Throughout the past 25 years, South Carolina governors have endorsed White Cane Week, and citizens from all walks of life have graciously participated in its observance. Blind people themselves have generously contributed their support to the White Cane week program, realizing the importance of their example if they are to expect the support of the public.

More than a decade ago, in keeping with National White Cane Week, the National organization drafted the "Model White Cane Law," a document which became known nationwide as a "bill of rights" for the blind. The South Carolina General Assembly unanimously adopted the Model White Cane Law in its entirety in 1972 and became one of 30 states who have adopted the law or its equivalent. The statute is appropriately referred to by Federationists as the Model White Cane Law because the white cane is recognized as a symbol of courage and independence. This special law is a clear assertion of the basic rights of blind South Carolinians — rights generally taken for granted by the sighted, and is a clear proclamation of the special needs of the blind.

Virtually every area of life affecting the blind is addressed in the Model White Cane Law including rights in public housing, public accommodation, public conveyances, and safe use of the streets. The Model White Cane Law is the embodiment and recognition of the basic rights and needs of blind people.

The first section of the statute, which clearly enunciates much of the substance of the law reads "It is the policy of this State to encourage and enable the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the State and to engage in remunerative employment." While all sections of the Model White Cane Law are important, Section 1 and Section 6 are especially vital to the blind. Section 6 reads as follows: "It is the policy of this State that the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled shall be employed in the state service, the ser-

vice of the political subdivisions of the State, in the public schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms and conditions as the able-bodied, unless it is shown that the particular disability prevents the performance of the work involved."

The Model White Cane Law clearly specifies that blind South Carolinians are to enjoy and fully participate in the social and economic life of the state including employment by the state and its entities. Nevertheless, Federationists have experienced with great concern situations in which blind persons are actually denied the right to maximum employment by the state and its subdivisions. For example, the State's highly successful Technical Education program has seen fit to adopt positions which have precluded maximum state employment of the blind. Certain judicial decisions have also compounded the problem. Be that as it may, the Model White Cane Law remains a beautiful expression of the rights and needs of blind persons. Sighted and blind alike should understand its provisions.

The Model White Cane Law is not a panacea to the plight of the blind; however, it is compatible in every way with the aspirations of blind Americans. Written in the spirit of decency and fair play, the Model White Cane Law harmonized with the goals of the National Federation of the Blind — to promote equality, opportunity, and security for the nation's blind. This means equality of education and employment. It means an opportunity to share in the good things in life. It means security against fear and want.

The Model White Cane Law is a valuable contribution to the lives of blind persons, and its very existence aids in the eradication of many imperfections in

an otherwise imperfect society. Because of its importance, the *Palmetto Blind* is reproducing the Model White Cane Law in its entirety. CALENDAR NO. H. 3071, Introduced by MESSERS, YARBOROUGH, EDWARDS, CLEVELAND, JOHN C. WILLIAMS, JR., GEORGE DEAN JOHNSON, FINCH, DAVIS, DUNCAN, MANNING, CARTER, THEODORE, PATTERSON, GARRETT, HUNT, HUFF, GRANGER, PYLE, DERRICK, BAGGETT, WIENGES, COLLINS, BRYANT, BENNETT, AND IRICK

S. Printer's No. 557-S Read the first time May 9, 1972.

The Committee on Education

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3071), granting rights to blind persons, etc., respectfully

Report:

That they have duly and carefully considered the same, and recommend that the same do pass.

WALTER J. BRISTOW, JR., for Committee

A Bill

Granting Rights to Blind Persons as to Access and Enjoyment of Public Buildings, Conveyance, Housing Facilities, Use of Guide Dogs; and to Provide for White Cane Safety Day.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. It is the policy of this State to encourage and enable the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the State and to engage in remunerative employment.

SECTION 2. (A) The blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled have the same right as the able-bodied to the full and free

use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public facilities and other public places;

(B) The blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motor buses, street cars, boats or any other public conveyances or modes of transportation, hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusement or resort, and other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons;

(C) Every totally or partially blind person shall have the right to be accompanied by a guide dog, especially trained for the purpose, in any of the places listed in Section 2 (B) without being required to pay an extra charge for the guide dog; provided, that he shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such dog.

SECTION 3. The driver of a vehicle approaching a totally or partially blind pedestrian who is carrying a cane predominantly white or metallic in color (with or without a red tip) or using a guide dog shall take all necessary precautions to avoid injury to such blind pedestrian, and any driver who fails to take such precautions shall be liable in damages for any injury caused such pedestrian; provided that a totally or partially blind pedestrian not carrying such a cane or using a guide dog in any of the places, accommodations or conveyances listed in Section 2, shall have all of the rights and privileges conferred by law upon other persons, and the failure of a totally or partially blind pedestrian to carry such a cane or to use a guide dog in any such places, accommodations or con-

veyances shall not be held to constitute nor be evidence of contributory negligence.

SECTION 4. Any person or the agent of any person who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities enumerated in Section 2 or otherwise interferes with the rights of a totally or partially blind or otherwise disabled person under Section 2 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

SECTION 5. Each year, the Governor shall take suitable public notice of October fifteenth as White Cane Safety Day. He shall issue a proclamation in which:

(A) He comments upon the significance of the white cane;

(B) He calls upon the citizens of the State to observe the provisions of the White Cane Law and to take precautions necessary to the safety of the disabled;

(C) He reminds the citizens of the State of the policies with respect to the disabled herein declared and urges the citizens to cooperate in giving effect to them;

(D) He emphasizes the need of the citizens to be aware of the presence of disabled persons in the community and to keep safe and functional for the disabled the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public facilities, other public places, places of public accommodation, public buildings, amusement and resort, and other places to which the public is invited, and to offer assistance to disabled persons upon appropriate occasions.

SECTION 6. It is the policy of this State that the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled shall be employed in the state service, the service of the political subdivisions of the State, in the public schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms and conditions

as the able-bodied, unless it is shown that the particular disability prevents the performance of the work involved.

SECTION 7. (A) Blind persons, visually handicapped persons, and other physically disabled persons shall be entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to all housing accommodations offered for rent, lease or compensation in this State, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons.

(B) "Housing accommodations" means any real property, or portion thereof, which is used or occupied or is intended, arranged, or designed to be used or occupied, as the home, residence or sleeping place of one or more human beings, but shall not include any accommodations, included within subsection (A) or any single family residence the occupants of which rent, lease,

or furnish for compensation not more than one room therein.

(C) Nothing in this section shall require any person renting, leasing, or providing for compensation real property to modify his property in any way or provide a higher degree of care for a blind person, visually handicapped person, or other physically disabled person than for a person who is not physically disabled.

(D) Every totally or partially blind person who has a guide dog, or who obtains a guide dog, shall be entitled to full and equal access to all housing accommodations provided for in this section, and he shall not be required to pay extra compensation for such guide dog but shall be liable for any damage done to the premises by such a guide dog.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon approval by the Governor.

Another Business Knows About the White Cane Law

Holly Farms is a respected business in this area of the country. Yet, one of its restaurant operators in Columbia recently denied entrance to a blind customer accompanied by her dog guide. As is the custom and practice of the NFB of SC when a violation of the law in this area occurs, the Federation promptly files a complaint.

The Federation is pleased to report that there was appropriate response by Holly Farms as evidenced by the following letter:

"I have been made aware of the problem that occurred Saturday, March 21st, at our Taylor Street Restaurant. The incident was a misunderstanding on the part of our personnel from the standpoint that guide dogs are the exception of animals being allowed to enter food establishments.

We at Holly Farms make every effort to make our facilities available to the handicapped, both physically and visually. To help ensure that this problem does not happen again we are issuing a letter to all of our restaurants to make sure that they are aware of the permitted use of guide dogs in our establishments.

Please extend our apology to Mrs. London since we do not have her address."

Sincerely,
Ray Pierce,
President

As appropriate as this letter is, it does not eradicate the hurt and humiliation experienced by Mrs. London in being denied access to the place of business she had selected to patronize.

Flashback

For 25 years the NFB of SC has been disseminating valuable information to both the blind and the sighted through its periodic publications. Initially a quarterly newsletter was the forum. More than 20 years ago, however, the *Palmetto Auroran*, then the voice of the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, replaced the newsletter. Five years ago, when the S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind began operating in the name of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, the *Palmetto Blind* replaced the *Palmetto Auroran*, but only the name has changed. During the past quarter of a century, the foregoing periodicals have contained literally hundreds of articles reflecting progress of blind individuals and changes in programs for the blind. Relying upon this 25 year record of service to the blind, the *Palmetto Blind* in the future will contain a "Flashback" which will feature something of special significance as it relates to the blind during the past quarter of a century.

In 1959 over two decades ago an outstanding accomplishment occurred which represented one of the major triumphs of a young struggling state organization of the blind.

Even today, 22 years later, it remains a beautiful accomplishment. In 1959, Lois Boltin Tucker, through her initiative and the judicious assistance of the then Aurora Club, became the state's first PBX braille switchboard operator. The account of this remarkable success story received national acclaim. Lois Boltin Tucker has been gainfully employed for over 20 years as a PBX braille switchboard operator. She is currently employed at Seibels Bruce and Company in Columbia where she operates one of the state's busiest switchboards and also serves as receptionist.

Held in high esteem by her fellow employees, Lois has become an "institution" at Seibels Bruce and Company. Her courage, resourcefulness, and hard work have helped other blind persons. Recently, a young blind man, Tom Bilton, was hired by Seibels Bruce as a computer programmer. Undoubtedly, Lois paved the way for the hiring of another blind person. Lois is a former state president and was honored a few years ago with the unveiling of her portrait in the Board Room of the Federation Center of the Blind. Thus, the *Palmetto Blind* in its first "flashback" is proud to feature an article written 22 years ago in 1959 known as the "Lois Boltin Story."

"Three years ago and three thousand miles across the United States, Lois Boltin, while attending the Convention of the National Federation of the Blind in San Francisco, California, first heard of a braille switchboard. It was then that she became interested in this relatively new field of employment for the blind. This interest grew until in the summer of 1958, Lois made a decision to enter training to be a braille switchboard operator.

We learned that the Minneapolis Society for the Blind, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is the most noted training center in this field, and contact was made by the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. with this center. Lois' application was accepted by this training center and in October 1958, she boarded an airplane at Columbia's airport bound for Minneapolis.

Since this training is relatively expensive, prior to leaving for Minneapolis, Lois contacted the director of the Division for the Blind for the purpose of inquiring as to whether or not the state agency would assist her in receiving this training. She was informed that since she

was already employed as a vending stand operator, she would not be eligible for any assistance from the Division, notwithstanding the fact that this training would eventually improve her economic status. Despite this discouraging news, Lois, at her own expense, in addition to a contribution from the White Cane Week Fund, decided to go ahead with her plans.

This type of training requires from eight to ten weeks for completion; but, because of Lois' extra effort, she completed the training in six weeks. Only three previous students had accomplished this feat. In order to take the training, it was necessary for Lois to ask for a leave of absence; and her employer, Jack Morrison, a director of the S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind, cooperated to the utmost in this regard.

When Lois returned to Columbia the latter part of November 1958, the S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind immediately began negotiations with the local telephone company to secure the braille attachment. After more than four months had elapsed, this equipment finally arrived.

Steps were immediately initiated by the S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind to secure this type of employment for Lois. The Rehabilitation Department of the Division for the Blind was contacted to determine if it would assist in securing a position for Lois. We were informed, just as Lois was when applying for financial aid in taking the training, that since she was already employed as a vending stand operator, she was not eligible for any assistance by the Division. It was quite obvious we were now all alone in our struggle to find Lois a position.

We then requested the telephone company to furnish us with a list of the firms in the Columbia area and other cities of

the state using the type of switchboard which can be easily adapted to the braille attachment. The telephone company very kindly furnished us with this list, and we subsequently wrote a number of letters to these firms explaining Lois' achievement and asking their consideration. In addition, there were several newspaper articles written to focus public attention on Lois' outstanding accomplishment.

The Chamber of Commerce was contacted for its assistance and recommended that we inform the civic organizations of Columbia of this situation, requesting their cooperation in finding a position for Lois. This was done, as some thirty civic organizations were furnished complete information and their cooperation was requested. In this manner, we felt we would be able to reach many of the businessmen of Columbia.

Other steps were taken in addition to the above, but Lois and this writer soon came to the realization that there is absolutely no substitute for a personal contact. Consequently, on Saturday, June 13, bright and early, Lois and I began our tour by foot of the downtown firms. The outside temperature was 95° and the humidity felt just about as high, but this didn't prevent Lois and the writer from covering some thirty-two blocks during a six hour period, calling on various firms.

We were received most cordially and were pleased to learn that the businessmen of Columbia proved to be open-minded on the subject of employing the handicapped, including the blind. We felt they were further enlightened by our visit.

However, we did not find any vacant positions for a switchboard operator and had decided to call it a day, but realized that earlier we had failed to see the personnel manager or owner of one of the

firms previously contacted. As fate would have it, we did find the firm's owner in on our second call. Interest in Lois's achievement was immediate and, needless to say, this response was heartening and encouraging to both of us, who had grown weary by that time.

After an interview lasting more than one hour, Lois was told that the firm was definitely interested in employing her and that she would be officially notified in a day or so as to confirmation of the position. On Tuesday, June 16, Lois was given the official word that she had been accepted and was asked to assume this position as soon as possible. This firm is known as Kohn's, which is one of Columbia's leading ladies' shops. On Monday, June 29, Lois will begin work with Kohn's.

This position will afford Lois an appreciable increase in her income of \$400 per year. She will work some thirty-nine hours per week and will enjoy all of the fringe benefits offered by Kohn's.

Every Auroran and blind person in this State should be rightfully proud of this accomplishment. It is well known that Lois is the first blind person in the State to complete braille switchboard training and the first to gain this type of employment. The ice has now been broken, and we sincerely hope that the S. C.

Aurora Club of the Blind has proved to everyone in work for and with the blind, that this is a promising field of employment for the blind and should be pursued to the maximum.

This is a milestone in work for the blind; and the Aurora Club, which initiated and engineered this work in this State, has shown again its ability to render its members tangible and lasting service. The Club, of course, has no budget which will afford paid counselors or placement agents; but with dogged determination on the part of Lois and the Club, and faith in God, she will be gainfully employed in the type of work for which she has so diligently trained herself to perform. The Club stands ready to help others to the maximum of its means.

In this position, Lois will be a living demonstration of the abilities of the blind and will truly elevate the attitude of the general public with regard to the capabilities of the blind. No greater thing could have happened to send your President off to the National Convention in Santa Fe, New Mexico, than for Lois to have gained this position.

Our heartiest congratulations and sincere wishes to Lois for a long and most successful career."

Colonial Life Observes International Year of the Handicapped

In the March issue of the *Fife and Drum*, Colonial Life's official publication, the International Year of the Handicapped was recognized in a special feature story. Several Colonial employees, including NFB of SC President, Donald Capps, were interviewed and featured. There was also an ac-

companying picture of President Capps captioned "Don Capps at work as Manager of the Death Claims Division where his knowledge is a sure asset to Colonial." Colonial Life is a considerate employer and has a good track record in employment of the handicapped. Their philosophy is compatible with Federation

philosophy and is clearly demonstrated in the *Fife and Drum* article herewith reprinted.

"Often, when we encounter situations or persons we don't understand, our ignorance most naturally creates fear. We are wary. We are frightened. The fear of the unknown brings avoidance and denial. We lower our eyes. We look away.

1981, as the International Year of the Handicapped, is a time for each of us to look toward, not away from, the myths that blind us to truth. Many people see a wheelchair, a limp or a white cane — not the person. It is too often assumed that someone with an obvious physical disability or abnormality must have mental and emotional problems as well. There is a frequent tendency to make excessive allowances for the problem and underestimate the abilities that are there.

Colonial is fortunate to have several employees who are physically handicapped. Their very presence here is strong evidence of the emptiness behind many common misconceptions. Our Company has realized that a handicapped person is often handicapped further by social and job-related discrimination. Our employees have shown that the physically handicapped are not unequal to the "whole" person.

Don Capps, Staff Manager of the Death Claims Section, says, "My blindness is not a handicap in my job, but a nuisance." In talking about the misconceptions some people have about the blind, Don recalls with amusement the woman on the telephone who told him, "You don't sound like you're blind." Sometimes a person has the tendency to talk louder to someone who is blind to gain their attention. He fondly remembers the time when his daughter Beth was young and her playmate said, "Your Daddy is blind,

you know;" and Beth responded wisely, "Yeah, and he's real smart, too!"

Don joined Colonial thirty-four years ago on April 15, 1947, at age eighteen. He was born with a congenital visual impairment which caused glaucoma. As a young man, the disease became increasingly troublesome and at twenty-five years of age, he was considered legally blind. When the doctor treating his condition told him that he would probably have to give up his job, Don wept. He recalls his meeting with Mr. John Clifton Judy, co-founder of the Company, when he told Mr. Judy that he could no longer read. "We are not paying you to read. We are paying you for what you know," Judy responded. "We'll get someone to read for you." Judy's confidence and insight turned Don's life around.

Almost twenty-one years ago, an energetic U.S.C. Law School graduate was invited to Colonial to serve as "in-house" legal counsel to the fast-growing Company. Mr. Gayle Averyt opened our door to Jerry Brown and told him, "You can go as far as you want to, as far as you are able to go." Brown is now a Company Vice-President and Chief Counsel at Colonial. He has been in a wheelchair for thirty-five years of his life. As a result, Jerry says, "I've had lots of time to reflect on human nature unlike many people who are always busy running and doing and I think I've learned a lot about people that I wouldn't otherwise know."

...

Born and raised in Florence, S. C., Jerry Brown credits the constant support of his parents and his experience at the Center for Rehabilitation in Warm Springs, Georgia with his success in surmounting his handicap. The Center, developed by President Roosevelt, is considered a mecca for the physically handicapped

...

Independence — with dignity — is the goal of those handicapped persons who are able to learn alternative techniques. A physical disability, whether temporary or permanent, Don Capps explains, can bring out the best or worst in someone. Parents, family and friends can be too protective and try to do too much to help. A person physically challenged by a "handicap" has a desperate need to develop confidence in the attempt to overcome the obstacles and find the way. Kathy McIntosh, Clerical Supervisor in the Accident and Health Underwriting Department, states that her decision to leave her home in Orange Park, Florida, at age twenty-three, was the most difficult decision she's ever had to make. Kathy was discovered to have "arthrogryposis," an uncommon form of arthritis, when she was five years old. At first it was thought that Kathy's pain could be attributed to normal "growing pains" that would eventually go away. The condition which affects the joints restricts her ability to bend and reach down and limits the strength of her hands to some degree . . .

Kathy explains that, "People are not naturally drawn to a handicapped person, so that person needs to become more assertive. This is not always easy for me, but my job has helped tremendously to give me added confidence and initiative. It was important for me and others as well to realize that although there may be some things in this world I cannot do, there is so much I can do — I will not cheat myself of all there is to take hold of."

The confidence and faith in her ability shown by Colonial and her co-workers has given Kathy incentive beyond her own firm commitment to succeed. Like Kathy, Jerry and Don, most people realize that the past success of handicapped persons in a job lends itself

toward a company's employment of others.

Mark Shepherd, Senior General Clerk in Agents Accounting, explains that most handicapped persons well placed in a job for which they are trained and skilled will succeed. In most cases, it is because they must prove to themselves that they are capable; handicapped workers do the job and then some.

Mark is hampered by arthritis; he cannot stand for prolonged periods, lift anything too heavy and uses the stairs one at a time. Hemophilia is the root problem of his arthritic condition. Periodic internal "bleeds" cause the soft tissue around his joints to deteriorate. There is inflammation, swelling and considerable pain. Mark says, "You learn to live with the inconvenience, pain and general discomfort; you don't give in." Although he is aware that he faces inevitable crippling as he gets older, Mark accepts his problem with uncommon strength. He is totally self-sufficient in dealing with routine transfusion injections and the pain that is a constant reminder of his handicap. "Many people feel that someone like myself may not be reliable, may have a high absentee rate — the opposite is actually true. A person with this kind of condition works on days when others, should they be feeling this way, would most likely stay at home." . . .

"There are certain risks, physical and emotional, that you must take, if you want to be a part of society. I want to function within what exists as much as possible."

Handicapped people want to be approached and accepted as anyone else. They want to help themselves and in so doing, help each other. Jerry Brown and Don Capps have made a special contribution — the most valuable con-

tribution any of us can give — time. Jerry has served on the S. C. Board to further the cause of creating barrier-free architecture to give disabled persons greater mobility. Great strides have been made in the legislation to remove physical obstacles to the aged, injured and disabled, thanks to Jerry's involvement. The difficulty of time and funds needed to facilitate barrier-free access is understandably frustrating, but much progress has been made. Jerry became involved in CAHP's (Citizens for the Advancement of Handicapped Persons) in the early 1970's after receiving a ticket for parking in a "No Loading Zone." He realized then a real need to help, for what could be more important than "Human Cargo"?

Don Capps is the current President of the S. C. Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, one among many positions he holds in his full life. People feel that there are only two things to be dreaded more than blindness — death and cancer, and many people have told Don that they would rather be dead than blind. Not Don, he is a dedicated career man at Colonial, a Deacon in the Kilbourne Park Baptist Church, a past president and current member of the Forest Acres Rotary Club, a husband, a father. "Today," Don says, "there is fortunately a greater acceptance of the blind as productive, competing, contributing members of a sighted society

and work world, but there is still so much to be done. Unlike racial or ethnic prejudice, there is goodwill; but it is mischanneled. People will give a quarter, but not give an opportunity for a handicapped person to earn a dollar." Approximately 70% of the blind who are able to work are unemployed and so this problem is the greatest challenge.

Don and Jerry have each received well-deserved city, state, and national recognition through numerous awards and citations. They are insistently modest in viewing their many accomplishments. Perhaps Don says it best, "I am proud that I can be accepted for what I am and have been able to do in the sighted world, but the opportunity itself means so much more than any award." The National Federation of the Blind was given a reward of another kind on March 6, 1981, with the passage of a bill in the Senate which would allow the legally blind to serve on juries. Don explains that, "we are fortunate to have many commissions, agencies and the like in this country at work to solve the problems of unemployment, social discrimination and the civil rights of the handicapped. Our handicapped employees have believed in their dreams. They have given them great power through hard work to make them a reality. Dreams do come true. We can share them and make them strong."

From The Spartanburg Herald, March 17, 1981

Bob Oglesby had always admired Mickey Mantle. The great slugger sent chills through Oglesby every time he stepped up to the plate. . . .

Imagine, then, the smile that creased Oglesby's face nearly 20 years ago when Mantle and Whitey Ford walked into the

YMCA Health Club in Anderson and asked to see the facilities and also to inquire into getting a massage.

"I liked to fell over," Oglesby grins. "I never in my wildest dreams ever thought I would meet him and one day he just popped in. I gave him a massage and the

next day, when he found out he was my idol, he came back with a baseball and all the Yankees' signatures on it."

Mantle's autographed baseball is one of Oglesby's treasures. He picks it up from time to time, fingers the stitching and drifts back to the days that Mantle was the greatest name in baseball.

He would like to see it, to be able to study the names on it. But he can't. Bob Oglesby has been blind since he was five years old. . . .

Oglesby had little difficulty adjusting to his sightless world. He had more trouble with his mother and father and sisters and brothers fretting over him.

"Being blinded is not as traumatic for a person as young as I was," Oglesby says. "It's most difficult for an adult to accept blindness but I made it through the first part of it okay. It was worse for my family. They kept me out of school for three years because they couldn't stand me being away. I didn't start school until I was nine years old."

When he first arrived at South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, Bob Oglesby didn't waste time getting involved in athletics . . . "I played some football but it was kinda hard to play basketball. I did go to most every basketball game played there, though. I was involved in it. I loved being in the crowd. It meant a lot to me to be around it."

Oglesby's love for sports has spilled over into his professional life. He has been the health club director here for 11 years. He and his wife Pearl became the second and third people in the state to train as masseurs nearly 30 years ago.

. . .

"Sports have always been my favorite pastime," he says. "I try to involve myself in all sports so I can be confident in what I have to say. When I realized I was going to get in this line of work, it was all the more important to me to know about

sports. Most of the time all we do is talk about sports and it's an important factor in being successful in your work."

Oglesby doesn't simply talk sports. He has been active in helping improve athletic participation for sightless people. He is involved heavily with the Pioneers' Club, which has produced devices like a sound system which allows blind people to run without the aid of someone. And he has been involved with a device that is placed on a basketball hoop that helps blind people play basketball.

"The device for running is like a hearing aid operated by someone off the track and it gives a sound signal to keep a runner on his line," Oglesby says. "The basketball device emits a sound that lets the player know where the basket is. When the ball drops through it, it rings a bell to let him know he has scored."

He is a visible force in the blind community, well respected. . . .

And he is currently involved in getting Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind off the ground. The camp which will take five years to complete, is being built on Sassafras Mountain, 12 miles north of Pickens. When complete, it will serve 300 people. One of the cottages will be named the Robert Lee Oglesby Cottage.

"We hope when we complete the facility we will be able to serve every blind person in the state who desires to be served," Oglesby says. "It will have hiking trails, a swimming pool, a lake and there will be hiking trails."

A kickoff banquet is planned at the YMCA April 28 in Oglesby's honor, to begin a funding program to finance the Oglesby Cottage. The Spartanburg Chapter of the Federation of the Blind is donating the first \$5,000. The cost is expected to be over \$60,000. . . .

Meanwhile, he will be busy getting folks acquainted with the expanded

facilities at the YMCA. The health club has expanded into separate quarters for both men and women, a new gymnasium will house a basketball court, three handball courts and an indoor track.

"I like to think I played a part in it," he says. "I'm real pleased the ladies will soon have a place to call their own. They haven't had that in the past but their

facility will be ready any day now. And the new building should be complete by May."

His buddy, Matthew Poliakoff, would be proud. Oglesby and Poliakoff spent 10 years watching University of South Carolina football and basketball games together. "I miss him," Oglesby says. "I wish he was around to see it all happen."

Senate Passes Jury Bill

The South Carolina Senate has passed the jury bill providing non-discriminatory treatment of prospective blind jurors. The Bill, S. 145, is now pending in the House Judiciary Committee. Passage by the Senate was a big hurdle; however, the Senate-passed bill now faces stiff opposition in the House of Representatives. The Federation will continue to work to overcome this opposition as there are also many supporters of the legislation in the House.

Press Does About Face

Since the issue of blind persons being disqualified as jurors surfaced two years ago, the press has not remained silent. Articles and editorials in support and in opposition to blind persons serving as jurors have been printed. Perhaps this is not surprising as editors are as subject to divergent views as anyone else. However, it is well known that public opinion can be and is frequently influenced by the press. Thus, it is especially important that the press at least be consistent in their editorial position. In 1979 an editorial appeared in the *State Newspaper* in support of blind jurors. However, a few weeks ago the same newspaper featured an editorial in opposition to blind jurors. The editorial had the effect of being a "put down" of blind citizens.

A New Wrinkle

The NFB of SC, through its president, Donald Capps, responded to the recent *State* editorial. While the *State* printed President Capps' letter, they also featured on the same day a letter previously received from a blind person which squared with their position. President Capps' response to the editorial contained far more logic than the other blind gentleman's letter and was more prominently featured; however, the NFB of SC believes that the *State* did not display fairness in printing President Capps' letter responding to the editorial and the letter opposing the jury bill on the same day.

Blind persons writing to the newspapers in opposition to a basic right of each and every citizen represents a new wrinkle. Such actions, in the judgment of the NFB of SC, hurt the cause of the blind. In order that *Palmetto Blind* readers will be fully informed. The *Palmetto Blind* is reproducing the editorial, President Capps' letter and Mr. Little's letter.

Question of Justice

The State — February 20, 1981

"There may be some circumstances in which legally blind citizens can function

as well as sighted ones while sitting on a jury in a South Carolina Court, but there aren't many.

"It is necessary for a jurymen to not only listen carefully to the testimony but to observe the conduct of witnesses, and of the trial, closely. Certainly a jurymen must be able to see in order to evaluate physical evidence.

"*The State* endorses efforts to improve and enhance the status of handicapped citizens in our society, but in this instance we feel it is not so much of a question of encouraging good citizenship as it is a question of the conduct of justice.

"Should the legislature approve a bill to allow the legally blind to serve on juries, it should be left to a judge to determine the reasonableness of that juror's service.

"Of course, both prosecution and defense attorneys will continue to have the right to strike jurors, and that is another means of excusing a blind juror from serving.

"The intent of the legislation is noble, but we think it is impracticable. It would not improve the administration of justice."

Newspaper's Vision is Blurring

The State — March 21, 1981

The blind continue to meet the challenges of eliminating misconceptions about blindness. In a recent editorial, "Question of Justice," *The State* (Feb. 20) wrote "There aren't many circumstances in which legally blind citizens can function as well as sighted ones while sitting on a jury." Reference was made to the necessary senses which a juror must possess to ensure the proper administration of justice. It is interesting to note that only a few years ago jurors had to possess the right skin color and sex to serve in this state.

The same misjudgment, discrimination and prejudice underlie the exclusion of blind persons that previously excluded blacks and women.

"Blacks or women" could be substituted for "handicapped" in *The State's* remarks endorsing "efforts to improve and enhance the status of handicapped citizens in our society" while simultaneously questioning the good these efforts produce.

The blind juror legislation is not "noble," as *The State* suggests. It simply ensures qualified blind people the right to serve as jurors. Blind judges and attorneys practice competently nationwide without question of their abilities to evaluate physical evidence, observe witnesses' conduct or select prospective jurors. Why question blind jurors who will serve with several sighted persons? Attorneys who don't want blind jurors can exercise their right to strike jurors.

Finally, with all due respect to *The State*, we find it curious that *The State* appears to have reversed its stance from a previous editorial, "If Justice Is Blind, Why Not Jurors? (May 15, 1979).

Donald C. Capps, President

Blind Person Contends Justice Isn't Blind

The State — March 21, 1981

"I just listened to the article read over my educational radio for the blind about a bill being passed by the Senate to make legally blind persons eligible to serve on juries. As a legally blind person with limited vision, I am of the opinion that I am not qualified for such service. I believe that all blind persons should recognize their limitations and focus more attention on the things they are capable of doing and appreciate the ser-

vices being made available to them daily.

Since I am functionally blind, not able to read or write nor distinguish colors and people's features, it would be difficult if not impossible for me to make a judgement on objects presented as evidence because I could not see them.

If the final bill does not include significant definitions concerning levels of perception, I may just look around for a job as a proofreader or apply for the re-issuance of my driver's license."

Marvin H. Little

Not of One Mind

The NFB of SC has never pretended that all blind persons are of one mind. We believe, instead, that the blind represent a cross section of the population. However, something as important as the jury bill, which assures first class citizenship for the blind in jury service, deserves serious consideration by all blind persons. The Federation recognizes that some blind persons, just as some sighted persons, have no desire to serve on juries and some may even believe that they are incapable of serving on juries. In recognition of this situation, the Low Country Chapter of the NFB of SC recently adopted a resolution which addresses this issue.

WHEREAS, the Low Country Chapter of the NFB of SC is vitally concerned that blind citizens assume and be granted the same rights and responsibilities accorded sighted citizens; and

WHEREAS, blind South Carolinians and other blind Americans have competently rendered and continue to successfully render efficient jury service when permitted; and

WHEREAS, S. 145, as passed by the Senate, provides that "legal blindness

shall not disqualify an otherwise qualified juror" insuring blind people who want to capably serve as jurors the right to do so; and

WHEREAS, S. 145 further provides that "persons who are legally blind . . . shall be exempt from service as jurors if they so elect," permitting those blind persons, who because of lack of self-assurance or the benefit of enlightened and educated attitudes resulting from participation in successful rehabilitation programs, the right to exempt themselves; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the blind like the sighted are not always of one mind; and

WHEREAS, S. 145 provides for the rights of those blind people who wish to serve and those who choose to exempt themselves; thus satisfactorily and fairly meeting the concerns of all the blind; and

WHEREAS, attorneys or litigants for all parties may satisfactorily resolve their desire for, or rejection of blind jurors or others through use of preemptory strikes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Low Country Chapter of the NFB of SC assembled this 11th day of April, 1981 in the city of Walterboro that, as blind citizens, we go on record in support of S. 145 as passed by the Senate, and reaffirm our belief in all that it stands for in furthering our first-class citizenship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, as blind citizens, redouble our efforts to insure passage of S. 145 in the House of Representatives without amendments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, as blind citizens, continue to educate both the sighted and the blind public about the true nature of blindness; and let us begin by distributing this resolution to our elected members of the House of Representatives.

Dr. Jernigan to Address State Convention

Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, President of the National Federation of the Blind, will be the banquet speaker at the State Convention of the NFB of SC. The annual meeting will be held July 31, August 1 and 2, 1981 on the campus of Presbyterian College in Clinton. The Laurens County Chapter of the NFB of SC is the host chapter. This chapter is already preparing for the convention. Presbyterian College officials have made available three fine facilities for use during the convention. Delegates will be housed in Georgia Hall, a modern air-conditioned facility. Room rates are \$7.00 per person per night. The Clinton Holiday Inn will be available to persons desiring more elaborate accommodations. The Friday evening reception and hospitality hour will also be held in Georgia Hall. Meals, including the Saturday luncheon and the Saturday evening banquet, will be served in

Greenville Dining Hall, an excellent facility. The three convention buildings are in easy walking distance of each other. However, for convenience to delegates, several buses will be available. All reservations should be made at the Federation Center of the Blind, except Holiday Inn reservations, just as they were in 1980 for the Capstone House. Several weeks prior to the convention you will receive the usual convention material and instructions. Don't make reservations directly with Presbyterian College. With our National President being in attendance, our annual, state convention promises to be an outstanding event. The 1982 State Convention will be housed in the Clemson House on the campus of Clemson University. The dates for the 1982 convention are July 30, 31, and August 1, 1982.

Shelia Goes to Nebraska

The NFB of SC is losing one of its most faithful members. Shelia Byrd, active in the Columbia Chapter for several years prior to transferring to the Charleston area, has accepted an important position with the Nebraska Agency for the Blind. For the past several years, Shelia has been working as a counselor in the Charleston office of the S. C. Commission for the Blind. Earlier this year, Shelia was elected president of the Charleston Chapter. Since 1978, she had served as secretary of the NFB of SC. In appreciation of Shelia's many contributions to programs for the blind, a resolution was adopted at the March 29th meeting of the State Board commending her for her service to blind South Carolinians.

Baltimore, Here We Come!

Before you know it, we will be boarding the two chartered buses for Baltimore to attend the 1981 convention of the National Federation of the Blind. While all bus passengers will receive a special letter with complete details at a later date, it will be helpful to note that both buses will depart from the Federation Center of the Blind in Columbia on Saturday morning, July 4th, at 8:00 a.m. The return trip will be the following Saturday. Both buses will arrive in Baltimore later that evening. If you have not already signed up for the Baltimore trip, you should do so immediately. Also, if you have not made your hotel reservation in Baltimore, you should make arrangements promptly. Please send your check for \$20 to Mrs. Sharon Omvig, 364 Marydell Road,

Baltimore, Md. 21229. You should also give Mrs. Omvig the following: your name and address, your date of arrival and date of departure, what kind of room you want — single, double, triple, or quad, and if you prefer a certain hotel, indicate this; but also put down your second and third choice. Mrs. Tootsie Gatlin, official delegate to the National Convention, will be in charge of one bus, and Bob Bell, alternate delegate, will be in charge of the second bus. Unlike the trip to Minneapolis no overnight stop will be necessary for the Baltimore trip which should not require more than 14 hours en route including stops for breaks and meals. This year promises to be a truly outstanding national convention. One day of the convention, Wednesday, has been set aside for a trip to Washington. If you need any further information concerning the bus trip or the National Convention, please call the Federation Center of the Blind at 254-3777. Let's again have South Carolina at the very top in attendance.

Time to Apply for 1981 Scholarship and Home Awards

Blind persons interested in applying for the Ellen Beach Mack Home Award and Scholarship Award are now invited to do so. Any blind South Carolinian is eligible to apply for the Ellen Beach Mack Home Award. Application for this award may be obtained by writing the Federation Center of the Blind, 119 S. Kilbourne Road, Columbia, S. C. 29205 or to Mr. Bob Bell, Route 1 Box 223, Laurens, S. C. 29360. Blind college students interested in applying for the Sam M. Lawton Memorial Scholarship Award should contact the Federation Center or write to Mr. Bob Oglesby, 601

Maple Street, Spartanburg, S. C. 29302. The same procedure should be followed in applying for the Houston "Andy" Anderson Award as you may write to the Federation Center or to Mrs. Earlene Gardner, P. O. Box 2068, Aiken, S. C. 29801. These awards will be presented during the annual banquet of the State Convention of the NFB of SC.

Rocky Bottom Update

The Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind continues to be a combination of challenge and progress. With arrival of spring, organizations of the blind and others are busily involved in planning their visits to Rocky Bottom. Virtually, all the 23 organizations which comprise the NFB of SC have now made their reservations. Even though warmer weather will result in stepped up activity at Rocky Bottom, throughout the winter months there has been a steady flow of visitors to the area. The Rocky Bottom project continues to attract the involvement of many different groups. Several Lions Clubs in that area of the state are planning activities on behalf of the camp. The S. C. Telephone Pioneers will visit Rocky Bottom on Saturday, May 2nd. The S. C. Army National Guard is also planning some assistance to the camp. Recently, the Rocky Bottom story was presented to a district conference of the Rotary Clubs of District 777. In general, the Rocky Bottom story is becoming increasingly better known throughout South Carolina. Recognizing that the Rocky Bottom project is of considerable magnitude, the NFB of SC will continue to seek the assistance of as many individuals and groups as possible in getting the job done. In this regard, the State Board of the NFB of SC recently took action by authorizing the creation of a State Ad-

visory Board for Rocky Bottom. A number of prominent South Carolinians have been extended and have accepted an invitation to join the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind Advisory Board. The *Palmetto Blind* is pleased to report that Hon. Earle E. Morris, Jr., State Comptroller General, is among the first to respond as he writes as follows:

"I appreciate your letter of April 8, 1981 in which you provide an overview of activities and progress at Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind and propose the establishment of a statewide Advisory Board for the camp.

Under your wise, dedicated, and energetic leadership progress in development and use of the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind has been phenomenal. You have every right to be proud of the achievements made, and I have no doubt that completion of the complex will be made on schedule.

I am honored by your invitation to serve on the Advisory Board and I accept with pleasure this opportunity to be of further service.

Sincerely,
Earle E. Morris, Jr.

Handbook for Senior Citizens

The American Brotherhood for the Blind is increasingly responsible for outstanding publications providing valuable information to blind Americans. The most recent publication is entitled, *A Handbook for Senior Citizens: Rights, Resources and Responsibilities*. It is an excellent resource and may be obtained by writing to the American Brotherhood for the Blind, 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230. The cost of the publication is \$6.95. This special publication contains such information as What if Blindness, Where to Live, Special

Techniques, Aids and Appliances for Personal Use, Special Services and Agencies for Older Americans, Financial Assistance, Rehabilitation Services for Older Blind Persons, Handling Printed Materials, History of Organizations of the Blind, and To Every Thing There is a Season.

Legislature Expands School's Board of Commissioners

The S. C. General Assembly has passed legislation which provides for the expansion of the Board of Commissioners of the S. C. School for the Deaf and Blind from 7 members to 9 members, one of whom must be blind. The 1980 State Convention of the NFB of SC adopted a resolution calling for this legislation. The NFB of SC is pleased to have worked closely with School officials in drafting this legislation. Senator Heyward McDonald of Columbia was the Chief Author of the recently passed bill which will go to Governor Riley for his signature within the next few days. The expanded board will provide for more balanced representation and hopefully will assist in better administration of the school.

In Memoriam

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina has recently lost two faithful members through death. Mr. Willie Randal, long time member of the Spartanburg Chapter, passed away in March. Mrs. Annie May Hyatt, who was a charter member of the Chester Chapter organized three years ago, passed away in April. The Federation extends sincere sympathy to the families of Mr. Randall and Mrs. Hyatt. Both will be greatly missed.

Columbia and Conway Chapters Enjoy Successful Projects

The Columbia Chapter held its 28th annual BBQ on April 2nd and for the first time, realized profits in excess of \$5,000. It was the most successful BBQ to date. On April 9th, the Conway Chapter had a successful "Chicken Bog". The Chapter realized profits of nearly \$2,000 and is to

be saluted. Alton Cannon is the new president of the Conway Chapter and spearheaded the highly successful old fashioned chicken bog. Whether it is chicken BBQ or chicken bog, it appears that the Federation can get the job done.

Around the Palmetto State

The State Board of the NFB of SC has undergone some recent changes. Miss Shelia Byrd is going to Nebraska and she resigned as State Secretary. Mr. Bob Oglesby of Spartanburg was confirmed by the State Board as her replacement. Mr. Joe Stribling of the Oconee County Chapter replaces Jerry Whittle on the State Board since Jerry has transferred his membership to the Columbia Chapter. Mrs. Juanita Shell of Greenville replaces Barbara Curci who is now residing in Arkansas. Alton Cannon now represents Conway on the State Board, replacing Mercedes Royal who is presently representing the Myrtle Beach Chapter. Mike Keasler represents the Pickens County Chapter.

The Palmetto Blind expresses appreciation to Cynthia Bass who transcribed the February issue of the *Palmetto Blind* into braille which was the first braille edition.

The second annual Retreat for the Blind at White Oak Baptist Conference Center was a success. Rev. Jack Causey, Pastor of Pendleton Street Baptist Church in Greenville, was the religious leader. NFB of SC President, Don Capps, presided over the conference. Marshall and Lois Tucker presented the musical programs.

Following two weeks stay in the

hospital, Reggie Baker, President of the Lancaster Chapter, is now at home recuperating.

The Florence Chapter enjoyed a successful membership banquet on Saturday evening, April 25th. Plans call for a similar membership drive for the Rock Hill Chapter in the middle of May.

From the Presidents Desk

It was the chapter's first anniversary. The Low Country Chapter of the NFB of SC had weathered the first 12 months of its existence. We were pleased to be on hand for the important observance. As we arrived at the Colleton County Agriculture Building in Walterboro, a bus arrived just ahead of us and was unloading. Passengers included men and women, both white and black. They had come from a three county area, Colleton, Hampton, and Bamberg. Their fine President, Gloria Bowers, called the meeting to order. From the outset, there was a good spirit among the group. This warm spirit was heightened when President Gloria requested Mrs. Robinson, an elderly black member, to sing a song for the group. Mrs. Robinson responded with a beautiful rendition of "He Touched Me." This touched your

State President. Presiding over the meeting like a pro, President Gloria conducted election of officers for the second year of the young Chapter's existence. We were pleased to extend congratulations on behalf of the State and National organizations to the Low Country Chapter on its first anniversary.

We talked briefly about the jury bill and why it is important for blind persons not only to expect their rights but to also assume their responsibilities. The new chapter responded by adopting a resolution pertaining to the jury bill printed elsewhere in this publication. Although new in the Federation, the Low Country Chapter members understand the meaning of first class citizenship and unanimously adopted the resolution.

President Gloria discussed other state matters including Rocky Bottom. The guest speaker was introduced. She promptly and wisely reminded the group that it was apparent to her the Federation was working hard on behalf of the nation's blind. In her meaningful address, she used a report card as an analogy for individual performance. The speaker told the chapter that, depending upon how hard we worked, we will fall in the following categories: 1. Superior, 2. Good, 3. Average, 4. Fair, 5. Failing. The group got the message.

We have not visited the Low Country Chapter since its formation a year ago in April of 1980. How good it was to see blind persons in that area of the state working harmoniously to advance their best interests and the best interests of the state's blind. The NFB of SC salutes its Low Country Chapter on its first anniversary and extends sincere best wishes for continued success and growth.

Final Thought

Ten Commandments of Success

1. Work Hard. Hard work is the best investment you can make.
 2. Study Hard. Knowledge enables us to work more intelligently and effectively.
 3. Have initiative. Ruts often deepen into graves.
 4. Love your work. Then you will find pleasure in mastering it.
 5. Be exact. Slipshod methods bring slipshod results.
 6. Have the spirit of conquest. Thus you can successfully battle and overcome difficulties.
 7. Cultivate personality. Personality is to us what perfume is to a flower.
 8. Help and share with others. The real test of business greatness lies in giving opportunity to others.
 9. Be democratic. Unless you feel right toward your fellowmen you can never be a successful leader.
 10. In all things do your best. People who have done their best have done everything. People who have done less than their best have done nothing.
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National Federation of the Blind of S. C.
(Formerly S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)
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COLUMBIA, S. C. 29205

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The Palmetto Blind

The Voice of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina



Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind soars with South Carolina National Guard.

AUGUST 1981

Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind Reaches New Heights	1
General T. E. Marchant Responds	1
The New Generation of the Blind in South Carolina — A Presidential Report — By Donald C. Capps	2
NFB of SC Organizes 22nd Chapter	5
Commissioner Bowles Receives Distinguished Service Award	5
Commissioner Bowles Responds	6
Senator Thurmond Places Dr. Jerigan's Capitol Steps Speech In the Congressional Record.	6
Eighty-Two South Carolinians Attend National Convention	7
Plans for 1982 National Convention in Minneapolis Already Shaping Up.	8
Honorable Earle E. Morris Elected Chairman of Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind Advisory Board	8
"And Justice For All . . ."	9
1981 NFB of SC Convention Resolutions.	12
Flashback	15
Despite Severe Visual Handicap Local Man Journeys to Malaysia — From the <i>Index Journal</i>	15
Second Career Workshop Planned.	17
Nothing Is Impossible	17
Blind Leader Speaks at PC — From the <i>Laurens County Advertiser</i>	17
"Dreaming Dreams" From the <i>Laurens County Advertiser</i>	18
From the President's Desk — By Donald C. Capps	19
Final Thought.	21

The Voice of
The National Federation of the Blind
of South Carolina
(Formerly The South Carolina
Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)

Editor: Donald C. Capps

Published Quarterly

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, formerly known as The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, is chartered under the laws of the state of South Carolina to promote the social, spiritual and economic well-being of all the blind of South Carolina.

The *Palmetto Blind* is provided free of charge by The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina to all blind South Carolinians and other interested persons, and is available in print, audio cassette editions, and braille from the Federation Center of the Blind.

Readers who receive the audio cassette editions are requested to handle the tapes with care and to *always return them promptly* for the benefit of other

users. If you should receive a bad tape, please let the Center know by dropping us a note enclosed with the bad cassette so that appropriate action may be taken to remove that cassette from our library. Braille and print copies may be retained by recipients for their personal libraries.

If you or a friend wish to remember The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc., also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, in your will you can do so by employing the following language:

"I give, devise and bequeath unto The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, P. O. Box 4174, Columbia, S. C. the sum of \$_____ (or "_____ percent of my net estate", or "the following stocks and bonds:_____") to be used for its worthy purposes on behalf of blind persons and to be held and administered by direction of its Executive Committee and Board of Directors."

Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind Reaches New Heights

It's a bird . . . it's a plane . . . it's the South Carolina National Guard! On Thursday, June 18 1981 Rocky Bottom residents were surprised and delightfully excited to witness the first helicopter landing in the Rocky Bottom community on the front lawn of Osterneck Cottage at the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind. On hand to greet the helicopter which carried a group of officers dispatched by Major General T. E. Marchant, Adjutant General of South Carolina, were President Capps, his wife Betty, Mr. and Mrs. Carver, and curious friends and neighbors. Included in the visiting group of officials were CSM James C. Tabor, Major Frank H. Chapman, Petty Officer 2nd Class Joe C. Leophart, U. S. Navy Seabee C. W. Paul Lyell and CW3 M. L. Watts and Captain Gene Widener. But that was not the entire crew . . . the navigator was Federationist Suzanne Bridges, for whom special clearance was made to allow her to accompany the group in the helicopter. As you can see, the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina continues to climb to greater and greater heights. We have scaled the mountains and now we are taking to the skies . . . or so it would seem. Invitations were also extended to Donald Capps, Betty Capps and L. P. Armstrong, immediate past Chairman of

the Richland-Lexington Campaign, to fly in the helicopter, however, all produced convenient excuses. Therefore, the challenge was left to Susie.

Leaving Columbia shortly after 8:00 a.m., the helicopter and crew arrived safely at Rocky Bottom around 10:30 a.m. Susie experienced no casualties along the way and indeed characterized the experience as one of the greatest in her life and one that would remain with her forever. She remarked that indeed blind people could even successfully navigate aircraft. Both she and the crew were admittedly surprised when they landed right on target.

The National Guard thoroughly enjoyed the visit to Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind and were impressed by the progress which has been made. They will return in August to assist in the camp's renovation and development and are looking forward to becoming involved in this project. We too are anticipating the next visits and the invaluable contribution and services which the National Guard and Seabees will be rendering. Our appreciation and thanks go out to all and a special thanks goes to CSM James C. Tabor from Suzanne for his effort which enabled her to accompany the group in her first helicopter ride.

General T. E. Marchant Responds

Dear Mr. Capps,

I wanted to express my genuine appreciation for the outstanding manner in which the representatives of the South Carolina National Guard were received at Camp Rocky Bottom on 18 June.

CSM James C. Tabor has advised me of the hospitality extended to them. The

group was certainly impressed with your camp and the accomplishments you have achieved in renovation work.

At this point the Engineers will consider your overall needs and a report of their recommendations will be made to me. I can assure you that we will do whatever we can within our regulation

guidelines to assist you in any way we can. CSM Tabor, along with the other people visiting Camp Rocky Bottom, feel you may want to consider a plan within each area, or building on your desires for the floor plans. This would assist us in finalizing the needs in providing manpower, tools, equipment, and/or making recommendations as to what may or may not be done.

Please convey my appreciation and that of our representatives to Mrs. Capps

and your staff for the fine reception received at Camp Rocky Bottom, and also to Suzanne, whom I understand did a fine job in guiding the helicopter in on Camp Rocky Bottom.

With best good wishes, I am

Sincerely,
T. Eston Marchant
Major General, SCARNG
The Adjutant General

The New Generation of the Blind in South Carolina — A Presidential Report

By Donald C. Capps

(Editor's Note: The following address was given by President Capps at the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina State Convention on August 1, 1981.)

1981 marks the 25th anniversary of our state organization. Thus, it is appropriate that your president take the lead at this very moment in focusing special recognition upon a gallant state organization of the blind which has rendered a quarter of a century of meaningful service to South Carolina's blind. In 1956 the Aurora Club became the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. A dozen years earlier in 1944, a godly man, Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton, had founded the Aurora Club in Spartanburg. Three Aurora Chapters located in Spartanburg, Columbia and Charleston banded together twenty-five years ago and gave birth to a new statewide organization of the blind in South Carolina. Dr. Lawton, a noted minister, lecturer, and educator, in the very beginning, supported by a small but committed membership, relied upon the highest Christian ideals and principles in carrying

out the purpose of the small organization. Thus, the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind operating as the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina since 1976 was built upon a solid spiritual foundation. The high Christian ideals and ethical principles espoused by Dr. Lawton have always been compatible with the purposes and services embraced by the NFB of SC.

In 1956 South Carolina became an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind. I attended my first national convention in San Francisco in July of 1956. The new state organization had no money and a bank loan had to be secured in order for South Carolina to be represented at the national convention. Our distinguished national president, Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, who is with us today, was the first to greet me upon my arrival in San Francisco 25 years ago. In my humble judgement this was the beginning of a new generation of the blind in South Carolina. The inception of a new state organization of the blind strengthened, informed, and encouraged by a dynamic national organization of

the blind which deserves our full support breathed new life into the blind of South Carolina. Where there was once utter dependency and despair there is now hope and guarded happiness. Strengthened and undergirded by a new philosophy of respectability, we the blind of South Carolina began to believe in ourselves. It is just like the blind of South Carolina having been born again.

For the next 25 years, the new generation of the blind were destined to revolutionize long established but antiquated state programs for the blind. Willingly and courageously, the blind took calculated risks. Significant sacrifices were not uncommon. Many state leaders paid a high personal price for changes which were slow coming but undeniable. The new generation of the blind were assertive and effective. Within a decade or by 1966, the year the Commission for the Blind was created, the blind were now in key positions of leadership and were no longer door-mats. Soon sheltered and segregated employment with all of its demeaning consequences and welfare-like wages would be rejected by the blind and replaced by goals of meaningful and competitive vocational opportunities within the regular job market.

While these significant changes were occurring in the 1950's and 60's as a result of a courageous struggle by the new generation of the blind, the relatively new state organization experienced tremendous growth in the 70's which continues in the 80's. More than 15 chapters and divisions have been organized during the past decade. Tonight, at the banquet, you will see further evidence of this significant growth. Also, more than a decade ago our organization appropriately opened its membership to all the blind of the state

as ours is a movement to improve the quality of life for all blind South Carolinians. Thus, blind South Carolinians in all walks of life must have an opportunity to participate in and contribute to the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. This membership growth has been reflected in attendance at both the state and national conventions. For several years now the NFB of SC has ranked in the top five in attendance at national conventions being number one in 1979 even though South Carolina is a relatively small state. With our large membership, however, we can and we should be in the top five in our financial support of our national organization.

While tremendous effort was being exerted to effect the changes and accomplishments already enumerated, there was still enough energy left to construct a headquarters building in 1961 to facilitate the work of the state organization. Almost 20 years later in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains another facility has been erected adding a new dimension of service and recreation to the state's blind consistent with the goals and purposes of our state constitution. There will be more later in the convention concerning these facilities of service to the state's blind.

The past year has been a good one. The NFB of SC has done well in the political and legislative arena and this will be reported on in considerable detail later in the convention.

During the past year your president has traveled thousands of miles across the state visiting and strengthening chapters. This is terribly important as a state organization is no stronger than the vitality of its chapters and divisions. Speaking of divisions, I am pleased that a few years ago we had the insight to organize both a Student Division and

Blind Vendor Division. The Student Division has given us several energetic leaders. Both of our two blind staff members are products of the student division. Our Blind Vendor Division has had a significant impact upon the BEP program in this state. However, as state president, I want to encourage the leaders of the Student Division and the Blind Vendor Division to continue to strengthen your membership. As long as a student or blind vendor is comfortable and having no difficulty they may see little or no need for the Student Division or Blind Vendor Division. While student and vendor affairs seem to be in reasonably good order at this time, this situation could change especially if different officials were placed in charge of these programs. Thus, if you are a student or vendor you are strongly encouraged to support your division — it's in your best interest.

After five long years we have been totally successful in the litigation involving Evelyn Hydrick and the American Council of the Blind. In 1976 which was several years after the board of the old Association of the Blind voted to transfer \$47,000 to the NFB of SC, Evelyn Hydrick, a member of the ACB, filed litigation which would have the effect of relieving the NFB of SC of the \$47,000. It appeared to be an afterthought on the part of Mrs. Hydrick who is believed to have been used by certain persons in the Watts Administration and some in the old Administration of the Broom Shop who wanted to weaken and embarrass the NFB of SC. As early as December of 1974 during the Watts Administration of the Commission for the Blind taxpayer's money was used to circulate a commission publication known as "Today" in which the NFB of SC was alleged to have committed all sorts of improprieties

in accepting the \$47,000. The Federation has seen the hands of several believed to be involved in this litigation which is the reason the Federation feels Mrs. Hydrick was simply used. Before the litigation was recently concluded in favor of the Federation it had been necessary for Mrs. Hydrick and the ACB to employ several different attorneys.

The court held that the Association's Board acted properly and that the \$47,000 was legally transferred to the Federation. The NFB of SC holds the ACB responsible for substantial legal cost necessary to defend this spiteful litigation. These legal costs represent funds which would have been used to help blind people. The ACB also incurred substantial legal cost in a losing cause which hurt the cause of the blind. However, the NFB of SC will continue to have a strong financial posture. The ACB of SC was established during the Watts era. Federation officials feel that it is a negative entity and does not currently merit the respect of the NFB of SC. It has yet to prove in our judgement, that it is a responsible or beneficial organization.

Relationships in all life's endeavors are important. Among Federationists, relationships are precious. There is much interaction with Federation leaders having different responsibilities. To assure continuing progress in our great organization each of us must be willing to assume as much responsibility as we possibly can. This will require a greater commitment of time, energy, resources, understanding, and love. I believe that love speaks far more eloquently and effectively than indifference and apathy. I believe when we have love, we are far more willing to understand, far more willing to forgive, and far more willing to work harder. Let's all re-evaluate our Federation stewardship. Make no

mistake about it, our greatest strength lies in an outstanding statewide membership coupled with love.

As we embark upon a second quarter century of service to the state's blind, we now dare to dream where there was once only despair. Unlike pre-Federation days when the blind had little or no voice

in affairs vitally affecting their lives, this is no longer the case. The concept of a true partnership without patronage is now a reality. The new generation of the blind seek not confrontation but insist upon reasonable accommodation. Our indomitable spirit will live forever and we will never retreat much less go back. Thank you.

NFB of SC Organizes 22nd Chapter

Once again the Federation family has grown to include a new member chapter. On Tuesday, July 28, 1981, just three days prior to the State Convention the Marion County Chapter became the twenty-second local chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. Through the efforts of the organizing team which included Marshall Tucker, Treasurer of the NFB of SC, Suzanne Bridges, Executive Director of the Federation Center, Jerry Whittle, Staff Assistant of the Federation Center of the Blind, and local resident Gloria Baker, the blind of Marion County were contacted and invited to attend the organizing banquet held at the Red Carpet Restaurant.

Twenty persons joined the new chapter, thirteen of whom were blind voting members; and seven of whom became associate members. Pat Smith owner of

the Red Carpet Restaurant was among those who joined the chapter. Pat attended the S. C. School for the Deaf and the Blind with Donald C. Capps, Marshall Tucker, James Sims and others, and thus, the banquet offered quite a reunion. Visitors included Dr. Mason of the local Lions, and local radio personality Jay Johnson. Also on hand was Mrs. Loretta Collins, Donald Capps' sister, who graciously opened her home along with her brother-in-law, Don Collins to the organizing team during their three-day stay.

Officers of the new Marion County Chapter which received its charter at the State Convention are: President, Gloria Baker, Vice President, Pat Smith, Secretary, Miriam Richardson, Treasurer, Ray Marsh and Social Director, Alberta Brown. We most heartfully welcome this new chapter into the Federation.

Commissioner Bowles Receives Distinguished Service Award

At the 25th Annual Convention Banquet of the NFB of SC, Commissioner Maxine R. Bowles was presented the prestigious Distinguished Service Award. This is the highest recognition accorded to a sighted person by the NFB of SC, and it is given with great selectivity. In presenting this prestigious award,



President Capps cited Commissioner Bowles fifteen years of dedicated and unselfish service to South Carolina's blind. The audience of 300 persons was told by President Capps that Commissioner Bowles, having been with the South Carolina Commission for the Blind since its inception in 1966, is completely in tune with the goals and philosophy of the NFB of SC. She was praised for her unswerving support of wholesome and progressive programs offered by the South Carolina Commission for the Blind of which she has served as Com-

missioner and Chief Executive Officer since February, 1978. President Capps told the large gathering that Commissioner Bowles who possesses qualities of great understanding and sensitivity is simply incapable of being inconsiderate or discourteous to any blind person. The NFB of SC takes great pride in having presented the 1981 Distinguished Service Award to Commissioner Maxine R. Bowles with sincere congratulations and best wishes from all South Carolina's blind for a job well done.

Commissioner Bowles Responds

Dear Don:

I find no words that will adequately or can justly describe my gratefulness for having been so highly honored on Saturday evening by being named the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. Being of service to the blind of our State is not only my charge, but perhaps, more importantly, my desire. We have come a long way in our joint efforts on behalf of the blind, but we have so much further to go.

The award that was presented me is one that I shall cherish and treasure throughout my life, and it already hangs in a prominent place in our home. My husband, Joe, shares my gratitude to you and your Board for awarding me this outstanding recognition. The presentation

was extremely meaningful, not only because of your kind and deeply appreciated remarks, but also because it was made by you who, in my opinion, are a stalwart and true example of a leader and a gentleman who consistently places the concern and well-being for others above any of your own personal pursuits or pleasures.

I shall continue to work toward being of service as we labor together in our efforts to generate opportunities for blind citizens of our State and educate, or better educate, the general public about blindness.

Most gratefully,
Mrs. Maxine R. Bowles
Commissioner

Senator Thurmond Places Dr. Jernigan's Capitol Steps Speech In the Congressional Record

"Mr. President, today, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the very real problems which blind persons face as they struggle for independence and first-class status in our country. Almost one-half million of our citizens are blind, and they are ably represented by their

own national organization, the National Federation of the Blind.

Throughout my service in Congress, it has been my privilege and honor to work closely with the National Federation of the Blind and particularly, with the outstanding leaders of the blind in South

Carolina, among them, the first vice-president of the National Federation of the Blind, Donald C. Capps of Columbia.

As I have worked with these people, I have learned that one of the primary problems the blind face is one of public attitudes and lack of social acceptance. Blindness is often perceived by many as a tragedy; yet, I know from my associations with the leaders of the Federation that blindness need not become the disaster it is often thought to be. The key factors are proper training and a fair opportunity to compete.

This, Mr. President, leads me to express my concerns on behalf of the blind of our Nation. Over the years we have passed many laws which we thought would extend benefits, services, and opportunities to the blind, but, Mr. President, we are now learning that promises sometimes have not been fulfilled. There may be many reasons for

this, and although I do not have all of the answers, I do know that more money and more programs do not necessarily translate into better lives for our citizens. This is the message I have heard from the blind today.

Mr. President, the National Federation of the Blind is currently in the midst of its 41st annual convention, and I was honored to speak at their rally today outside the Capitol. At that rally, Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, president of the National Federation of the Blind, spoke forcefully of the concerns of the blind in this country. Dr. Jernigan is an eloquent and articulate spokesman on behalf of blind Americans, and I urge all of my colleagues in the Senate to consider his thought-provoking message. In order that each may do this, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the text of the remarks of Dr. Jernigan printed in the Record."

Eighty-Two South Carolinians Attend National Convention

Eighty-Two South Carolinians across the state attended the 41st Annual Convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Baltimore the week of July 4th. The large delegation again placed the South Carolina affiliate within the top five in attendance ranking number three as it did in 1980 at the Minneapolis Convention. South Carolinians will remember that the NFB of SC was number one in attendance in 1979 at the National Convention in Miami. This year, South Carolina missed the number two position by only a half dozen delegates with Pennsylvania having some eighty-eight delegates. The host state Maryland of course had the most delegates with approximately 200 in attendance.

The 1981 NFB Convention will be

remembered primarily for the Washington Rally on the steps and grounds of the nation's Capitol. Upwards of 2000 Federationists braved the one hundred degree heat as our distinguished President, Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, gave a stirring address as many senators and congressmen looked on and were caught up in the drama of the historical occasion. Vice-President George Bush addressed the tremendous gathering following Dr. Jernigan's stirring message which was directed at the heart of the problems of the nation's blind. South Carolina's senior Senator, Honorable J. Strom Thurmond, who was introduced by First Vice President, Donald C. Capps, also addressed the rally.

(Editor's Note: See the September Monitor for Dr. Jernigan's Washington

speech and other national convention speeches.)

The 1981 NFB Convention was replete with valuable information vitally af-

fecting the lives of blind persons. The tour of our National Center for the Blind in Baltimore, headquarters for the NFB, was also a highlight of the convention.

Plans for 1982 National Convention in Minneapolis Already Shaping Up

The 1982 Convention of the National Federation of the Blind will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Leamington Hotel. The dates of the 1982 convention are Sunday, July 4th through Friday, July 9th. Thus, South Carolinians will want to be sure and reserve this particular week. By giving advance notice of the dates of the 1982 convention - July 4th - July 9th - this will enable more of us to make our plans early and complete our work arrangements. The Leamington

Hotel is an excellent facility and South Carolinians will remember that the 1980 convention was held at this fine convention complex. Minneapolis is a beautiful city and we must continue to be in the top five in attendance. The 1983 convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri at the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel and the exact dates will be announced later. See you in Minneapolis in July of 1982.

Honorable Earle E. Morris Elected Chairman of Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind Advisory Board

A luncheon meeting of the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind Advisory Board was held at Osterneck Cottage on May 29, 1981 during which time Honorable Earle E. Morris, Comptroller General, was elected chairman of the distinguished group. Other officers include vice chairman, Mrs. Betty Lou Harris of Liberty, and recording secretary, Mrs. Jackie Kemble of Greenville. The Bylaws of the Advisory Board describe the purpose of the Board as follows. "To assist and participate in the overall development of the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind, and to advise the leadership of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in areas pertaining to the planning, development and operation of the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind."

The Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind

Advisory Board is comprised of the following persons: Honorable Earle E. Morris, Comptroller General of South Carolina; Rev. Jack Causey, Pendleton Street Baptist Church, Greenville; Mr. Paul H. Clifton, Jr., Vice President, Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Company, Columbia; Mrs. Betty Lou Harris, Chairman, Pickens County Campaign, Liberty; Mrs. Jacqueline Kemble, WFBC Television, Greenville; Professor Peter R. Lee, Clemson University, Clemson; Mr. Robert C. Martin, Inman Mills, Inman; Dr. Boyce G. Tollison, The Medical Center, P.A., Easley; and Honorable Brantley Harvey, Former Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled in the fall at which time there will be an implementation of

some of the preliminary planning which occurred at the first meeting on May 29, 1981. The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina is proud and fortunate in having such an array of prominent men and women giving of their time and talents in working hand in hand with the blind of the state in the development of the Rocky Bottom project, a ministry of love and service to the state's blind.

Mrs. Betty McWhorter To Head Richland-Lexington Campaign

Betty McWhorter has been named to head the 1981-82 Richland-Lexington

Campaign Drive for Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind. She replaces Mrs. L. P. Armstrong who had rendered outstanding service as Chairman for the preceding year.

McWhorter, a member of the Advisors for the Rocky Bottom Camp, is a graduate of Columbia College and is employed in personnel by the Farm Credit Banks of Columbia. A member of the Board of the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, she is listed in "Outstanding Young Women of America for 1979."

Mrs. McWhorter's talents will assure us of reaching our goal of providing a recreational camp for blind families of South Carolina.

"And Justice For All..."

(Editor's Note: The following condensed report was given by Donald C. Capps at the recent state convention of the NFB of SC)

One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Throughout our lifetimes we have pledged allegiance to the flag ending up by saying "and justice for all." I believe that it means just that "and justice for all," not just for white Americans, not just for black Americans, not just for sighted Americans, but also for our blind Americans. With that as a premise, I want to talk about the jury bill and other related matters. I think you realize that the Federation is not made up necessarily of politicians, but it is political. Many of our programs of rehabilitation and other services are successful or not successful, depending upon how much political clout we have in the legislature of our states and in Congress. Thus, we are political, but not necessarily

politicians. Also, it is necessary to be political in order to effect changes in leadership and to secure the right kinds of people for offices and boards.

This year, we have had a good degree of political and legislative success. Not one hundred percent, but in the political and legislative arena there are so many uncertainties, so many risks, so many people involved, that it is absolutely impossible to predict exactly what the outcome on a particular piece of legislation or an appointment on a board will be which vitally affects blind people. Last year our state convention adopted a resolution providing for the expansion of the Board of Commissioners of the S. C. School for the Deaf and the Blind. Some of my colleagues said, "My goodness, that hasn't been the case in 140 years; why do you think it will be now?" I said, "It doesn't matter about the last 140 years; this is 1980 and there needs to be a blind person on the Board of Commissioners of the S. C. School for the

Deaf and the Blind." The new leadership of the S. C. School for the Deaf and the Blind felt the same way we did because it is a part of the new generation. Times are changing and changes are not always bad. Thus, we worked with the president and other officials, the Chairman of the Board of the School, and the Board of Commissioners, in drafting legislation providing for at least one blind person to be on the Board of the School for the Blind. We sponsored and supported that legislation which became law and was signed by the Governor a few weeks ago. I was not a candidate for the Board position nor did I seek the position. But, when Governor Riley called me a few weeks ago and asked me if I would serve for him as a Commissioner on that Board, I said without hesitation, "Governor, I'll serve where ever you want me to in programs for the blind." I believe that whenever we have any particular service, gift, talent, background, or experience, that we ought to share that experience or gift to improve the quality of life of blind South Carolinians and blind Americans. Thus, I accepted this position.

I attended my first meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the School Thursday afternoon, July 30, 1981. I learned a lot and I have several opportunities to help with many of the problems related to the School. The School has a long and rich heritage, but it is affected just as other institutions are by the signs of the times in our contemporary society. I pledge to you without sacrificing any of my performance as president of this state organization, or as vice president of the national organization, that I will do what I can in harmony with other Board members to solve the many problems confronting the State School for the Blind.

The NFB of SC has a good track record

in serving on state Boards in fifteen years. There has never been but one blind person in this state, Richard Steel, who served on the Board of Commissioners of the S. C. Commission for the Blind, who was not at one time or another a member of the Federation. That will give you some idea as to whether or not this organization has stature, influence and some political know-how. This year Earlene Gardner's board position was to expire. It was my understanding that the Governor had made a commitment to name someone else to her position. But through hard work and contacts by the NFB of SC and others (including Earlene Gardner herself) who lobbied at the State House, wrote letters and held conferences with the Governor, the Governor changed his mind reappointing Earlene Gardner to the Board. Board positions are very sensitive and responsible positions and ought not to be taken lightly. As members of the Board of Commissioners of the School and the S. C. Commission for the Blind, we ought to be in tune with and in constant consultation with our fellow blind. The Federation is a movement of the people and a democratic organization with each contributing in his or her way. I believe wholeheartedly in that concept.

The United Way was in a real fight with the legislature this year because there was a movement under way to prevent state employees from being permitted to have deductions made from their salary as contributions to the United Way. The Federation Center of the Blind in Columbia is a United Way agency, depending upon \$40,000 a year. It was in jeopardy. We worked with the legislature, and a law was passed with the support of the NFB of SC and the Federation Center of the Blind allowing payroll deductions.

Two years ago our second vice president, with a great deal of courage and indignation at the time, simply told a judge in Charleston "I was summoned to jury duty and I want to serve on the jury. It doesn't matter that I am blind; I am here and I am ready to serve." She was denied an opportunity to serve. In late 1979 we introduced the jury bill. It was too late for any meaningful action in 1979 and it was introduced again last year. We lost the jury bill in the last days of the legislature in 1980 in the House of Representatives by less than six votes. I believe that if I had worked a little bit harder, had more Federationists statewide worked a little harder, we could have gotten those six votes and there would have been no question about the right of a blind person to serve on a jury if he wanted to. He would not have been systematically and summarily dismissed and disqualified for jury service. We had a seminar in December on the jury bill. We developed brochures, had mock sessions involving interviews with senators and house members, and we did our homework well. But for one influential member of the House of Representatives, one Honorable Robert Sheheen, representative from Kershaw County, the jury bill would have been law this year. This year the jury bill passed the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Marion Gressette, and subsequently passed the Senate. Then it went to the House where the House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Representative Robert Sheheen, placed an amendment on the Senate-passed bill that would completely gut the bill and make it totally unacceptable to the NFB of SC. It went to the House floor and ultimately went to a Senate-House Conference Committee. We politicked and the people on the House and Senate Conference Committee, agreed to

everything we wanted in the bill. It came back out and once again the House considered the Conference bill. But for one Robert Sheheen it would have become law. He once again persuaded the House not to accept the Conference bill which was just like we wanted, and it was referred back to the Conference Committee. In the waning days of the legislature, once again the Senate-House Conference Committee reported the bill back out like we wanted it. Once again Rep. Robert Sheheen took the floor and the Conference Committee's report was rejected by a 48 to 39 vote. Had five members joined the 39 who voted with us, it would have become law by a 44 to 43 vote. We lost again by five votes simply because of one articulate, powerful judiciary committee chairman.

Now what do we do? We do this. If we can't persuade Rep. Sheheen to see it our way (and I don't think we can now), we simply go out and get the most votes. We are going to do that. We have many opportunities between now and next year to educate everyone about our position.

We simply will never retreat on any judicial matter, civil rights issue or citizenship gap.

Finally, a lot of people worked hard at the state house this year trying to educate people. And we did. We had great success in the Senate and considerable success in the House. I can't recognize all of you at this time but I do appreciate those throughout the state who made contacts. It helped a great deal. You see, it's not that the 48 who voted against us hate us; they just don't believe that we are competent to serve on the jury. Also, many of them are lawyers and they are perhaps more concerned in what they would regard as an ideal juror; whereas, we believe that a jury should be made up of a cross section of our society which includes the blind.

We must all work together in the forthcoming year to ensure the success of our hard efforts to pass this very im-

portant right of citizenship for our fellow blind.

1981 NFB of SC Convention Resolutions

The following resolutions were adopted by the 1981 convention of the NFB of SC. The chairman thanks the members of the Resolutions Committee which included Sarah Slough, Earlene Gardner, Gloria Bowers, Jerry Whittle, Fred Armfield, Tootsie Gatlin, Libby Thrailkill, LaVett Jeffcoat, Jeff Scales, Joe Stribling, Mike Keasler; and our appreciation goes out to Jim Mitchell from Michigan for his valuable input and assistance to the committee.

81-01

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind recognizes the vital importance of meaningful employment opportunities for the blind as a vehicle toward first-class citizenship and a full quality of life; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the National Federation of the Blind to work with and encourage those organizations, companies, industries, etc. which have a positive effect upon the lives of the blind; and

WHEREAS, Seibels Bruce and Company has assumed a leadership role in promoting positive attitudes toward employment of the blind by employing qualified blind persons in meaningful positions, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in convention assembled this 2nd day of August 1981 in the city of Clinton, South Carolina that this organization recognizes and applauds the pioneering efforts of Seibels Bruce and Company, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Federation of the Blind of South

Carolina will continue to work cooperatively with Seibels Bruce and Company and other employers in identifying new employment opportunities for qualified blind persons in our continuing effort to advance the status and participation of the blind in our society.

81-02

WHEREAS, the 1978 "Right to Work" law exempts only those technical education institutions which did not have existing South Carolina Commission for the Blind sponsored vending facilities at the time of the passage of the law; and

WHEREAS, several vending locations at Technical Education Institutions have been jeopardized or lost because of faulty interpretation of the "Right to Work" law and its intent as determined by independent legal research; and

WHEREAS, the recent 1981 decision in the Court of Common Pleas by 7th Judicial Circuit Judge, James B. Stephen regarding Spartanburg Tech contributes to this alarming trend of misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the law, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in convention assembled this 2nd day of August 1981 in the city of Clinton, South Carolina that this organization take any and all actions deemed necessary to protect the legal rights of blind vendors in Technical Education Institutions which existed when the 1978 "Right to Work" law was passed.

81-03

WHEREAS, the ability to communicate effectively with others and to travel

freely and independently throughout society are vital skills necessary to participate fully in that society, and

WHEREAS, it is the letter and intent of Federal and State Law that legally blind citizens be provided with the alternative techniques required to carry out those activities, and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is the agency charged with the responsibility to provide legally blind South Carolinians with the services required to develop alternative techniques, such as, the use of braille and proper mobility skills using the white cane, and

WHEREAS, it has been the policy and practice of some South Carolina Commission for the Blind counselors and staff to deny these services to legally blind persons because they have "too much sight," even when the blind person has specifically requested these services, and

WHEREAS, individually written rehabilitation plans must be mutually determined with total input from blind clients regarding specific individual needs or service, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in convention assembled this 2nd day of August 1981 in the city of Clinton, South Carolina that this organization vehemently opposes the practice of denying braille, mobility, and other training to those blind persons who need and want these services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this organization request the South Carolina Commission for the Blind Board to formulate policy and take all necessary measures to ensure that blind South Carolinians receive needed services

which will improve and increase total independence and participation of blind persons in society.

81-04

WHEREAS, federal and state law mandates ethical standards and conduct regarding the release of identifying information about clients receiving services from state and federal agencies, and

WHEREAS, the S. C. Commission for the Blind was recently requested by the State Reorganization Commission to release such identifying information concerning clients in a specified geographical region for purposes of statistical research concerning duplication and delivery of services, and

WHEREAS, pressure and threat of legal action recently coerced the Board of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind to authorize the release of identifying information about clients to the State Reorganization Commission, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in convention assembled this 2nd day of August, 1981 in the city of Clinton, South Carolina that this organization believes that legislative or judicial mandate is the only legitimate pre-requisite for release of information concerning clients of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that release of information by the South Carolina Commission for the Blind should only be authorized in situations where such information will unquestionably lead to improved services and better lives for blind South Carolinians.

81-05

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind has been the most productive and influential force in the lives of blind

Americans, and therefore all Americans for the past forty-one years, and

WHEREAS, our organized blind movement represents the collective efforts of blind persons from throughout this country, and

WHEREAS, South Carolinians have contributed to this vital national movement through the efforts of individuals such as Donald C. Capps, our first vice president of the National Federation of the Blind and through attendance at national conventions, and other activities, and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina has supported our movement financially as well as spiritually, and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina recognizes the growing need for financial resources to maintain our tradition of service and leadership to the nation's blind, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in convention assembled this 2nd day of August, 1981 in the city of Clinton, South Carolina that we the members of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina pledge to increase our financial support in the forthcoming years through existing programs such as PAC, the Associates program and through all other possible means, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina take a leadership role among other state affiliates in this crucial endeavor.

81-06

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Vander Kolk, Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services

Training in the Department of Education at the University of South Carolina is submitting a proposal to establish and locate a federally funded National Research and Training Center on Blindness in South Carolina, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vander Kolk has actively sought the input of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina and incorporated the views and ideas of the organized blind movement in this state, and

WHEREAS, collective support and commitments exist from agencies and organizations working with the blind, such as the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, Federation Center of the Blind, Lions Clubs, and others for the creation of a Research and Training Center in South Carolina, and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this organization to support those agencies and organizations who work with the blind which have a positive effect upon the lives of the blind, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in convention assembled this 2nd day of August, 1981 in the city of Clinton, South Carolina go on record in total support of Dr. Vander Kolk and his efforts to locate the National Research and Training Center on Blindness in this state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this organization will work cooperatively with this effort providing that our continuing input is sought and incorporated in the total project, and that the programs of the Research and Training Center are in keeping with our own philosophies concerning blindness.

Flashback

(Editor's Note: It seems appropriate that in observance of the 25th anniversary of our state organization, this "Flashback" features our first annual state convention which will cause many of us Federationists to reminisce.)

Convention Bulletin

To all members of the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. and other blind persons of the State of South Carolina.

IMPORTANT: Please read carefully.

The annual convention of the South Carolina Aurora Club, Inc., one of the 43 state affiliates of the National Federation of the Blind, will be held in historical Charleston on Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28, at the beautiful Fort Sumter Hotel. No city in the United States possesses a greater historical significance and culture than the city of Charleston. It is the second oldest city in the United States, and at one time it was the largest city in this country. This is where on April 12, 1861, a Citadel cadet fired the first shot beginning the Civil War. Charleston with all its grandeur is the home of the oldest museum in the United States, and thousands from all over the world yearly visit nearby Cypress, Magnolia and Middleton Gardens. These are only a few historical

points of interest in Charleston, and certainly it is an ideal convention city.

This bulletin is being forwarded to you several weeks prior to the convention so that each of you may make your plans accordingly. Members from the Columbia and Spartanburg Chapters will, of course, have to make arrangements for Saturday night lodging, and those of you desiring to stay at the Fort Sumter Hotel should write for reservations direct as soon as possible explaining that you will be attending the convention of the South Carolina Aurora Club. Please be sure to do this at least one week in advance of the convention. Rates are \$5.50 for singles, \$8.00 for doubles, and \$9.00 for three in a room. There are perhaps groups of two or three who would like to reserve a room together which would reduce the expense. For instance, three male members could reserve one room for \$9.00 or three each. There will also be accommodations at the YWCA and YMCA. If you desire to take advantage of these accommodations which will cost \$2.50 or \$2.75 each, the ladies should get in touch with Mildred Yon, addressing your correspondence to her at the YWCA and male members should contact Coleman Moore at the YMCA. Many of you, of course, have friends or relatives in or near Charleston who would be glad to accommodate you for the night.

Despite Severe Visual Handicap Local Man Journeys to Malaysia

From the Index Journal

The year 1981 will always hold a special meaning for Tommy McNeill of West Cambridge Avenue. Not only was it declared the International Year for

Disabled Persons by the United Nations, it was also the year he traveled to Malaysia — no small feat for a severely visually handicapped person.

When he decided to visit Malaysia earlier in the year, where his sister and her husband, an Exxon employee, were living, McNeill first had to solve the task of finding a companion to accompany him on his two-week trip. He first contacted his friend Bob Somogyi, manager of the Educational Radio for the Blind in Columbia. Somogyi agreed to be on the alert for someone to accompany him, but called back later to ask if he would foot the bill. With that, preparations for their April 29 departure began.

McNeill had become familiar with the customs and background of the Malaysian people through a correspondence with Eddy Chung, a visually handicapped masseur. McNeill's sister, Marilyn, frequented a beauty parlor in the capital city, Kuala Lumpur, and came to know her hairdresser well. During the course of a conversation, she learned her hairdresser also had a visually handicapped brother who was working in her shop as a masseur a common employment for the blind Malaysian people.

McNeill began trading cassette tapes with Chung, he said, because Chung was going through a period of gloom and depression. The oral correspondence developed into a close friendship which they were able to confirm in person.

Enroute to Malaysia, the pair remained overnight in Tokyo before the final leg of the journey. Upon their arrival May 1, they were taken to McNeill's sister's house where she guided him throughout her splitlevel home, familiarizing him with the layout. A new, though not particularly pleasant discovery by McNeill were the chick-chocks, small lizards common to Malaysia that run within the walls of a house and turn up everywhere, even in the bathtub, said McNeill.

The two-week visit was a full agenda of experiencing Malaysian life. McNeill visited the National Mosque where the

Moslems, the predominant religion, pray each day. Shoes must be taken off before entrance, he explained, and the heads and arms of women who come to pray must be covered. He added that most women remain at home to pray.

The capital city proved to be somewhat hazardous to a sightless person. Basically a new and modern city, the sidewalks are built with many unexpected steps. Other items to be cautious of were the open drains directly next to the sidewalks which had to be stepped over when crossing a street. The drains are necessary, explained McNeill, because Malaysia is located near the Equator, a tropical climate subject to a rainy season. This same rain nourishes the vegetation into large healthy greenery harmonious with the colorful clothes and shops of the Malaysian people.

McNeill visited the Society of the Blind in Brookfields several times. Through his tapes to Chung which he had shared with the residents of the Society, McNeill's voice was recognized by many on his first visit and he had to meet some 40 blind persons at one time, he said. "I felt like a celebrity, shaking hands and introducing Bob," he said.

Though the Society provides the largest rehabilitation center in Malaysia, the Gunny School, the blind people are not content with many of the city's conditions. McNeill said the people want better housing and transportation designed to encompass their handicaps. Surprisingly, the main cause of blindness in Malaysia, according to McNeill's sister, is infantile malnutrition.

The Brookfields school offers blind students instruction in subjects the students will be able to use as an occupation. The majority of blind citizens in Malaysia are telephone operators, stenographers, masseurs and piano tuners. Specially designed recreational

activities are also offered there, including ping-pong, darts and bicycle riding.

McNeill and Somogyi returned to the United States May 16. Though his sister has since moved to Texas, McNeill said another trip to Malaysia would be pleasing. His friend, Chung, wishes to visit him in the United States but no definite plans have been set. McNeill does have very definite plans to attend the annual state convention of the National Federation of the Blind for South Carolina to be held at Presbyterian College August 1 and 2.

Second Career Workshop Planned

The Federation Center of the Blind will be sponsoring another Career Awareness Workshop on Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17. This two day event promises to be the biggest and best one yet. More details will be dispersed later; but, please keep the two dates in mind for the future.

Nothing is Impossible

The Laurens County Chapter, after being organized five and one-half years, is happy to announce the ownership of a debt-free 1800 square foot brick building situated on three lots at 1103 North Harper Street, Laurens, S. C.

This building will be used by all the blind in the county as well as house the office of the Laurens County Commission for the Blind.

Plans include some re-modeling, barbecue and picnic area, and storage facilities. Upon completion our open house will be held and everyone is invited to attend.

Blind Leader Speaks at PC

From the Laurens County Advertiser



Dr. Kenneth Jernigan addresses NFB-SC convention.

Blind Americans are in a race to prevent their eventual "custodialization" by the rest of American society, the national president of the National Federation of the Blind said Saturday night.

"If society had the means, they would long ago have custodialized us," Dr. Kenneth Jernigan said in a banquet address to about 300 members of the NFB's South Carolina affiliate. The state affiliate held its 25th annual convention this past weekend at Presbyterian College.

"OUR ORGANIZATION is really about (the question) 'Is it respectable to be blind?'" Jernigan said.

"Blind individuals through the years tried to convince society that they were capable of raising children," Jernigan said, citing one Arkansas case involving a blind mother.

"The Federation resisted that," he said, "and the Arkansas Supreme Court took it up. The children were taken away from the mother because she was blind. The court wrote into its decision that a blind mother was not capable of taking care of a child (although the judges later said there were other factors involved and that blindness was an excuse)."

"IT AFFECTS us," Jernigan said. "It does not stop at the state border. It can be used as a (legal) precedent by other states. It can't be alright to be blind in South Carolina, but not in North Carolina because South Carolina is not an island. What affects one of us, affects us all."

A similar case was fought in the Arizona courts involving a blind, divorced mother. In that instance, the NFB won its case. "The blind do not have to accept second-class citizenship and have their children taken away," he said.

"If the climate builds up (against blind persons), we will end up with established case law that reaches into every corner of the land and affect us all," He emphasized.

JERNIGAN ALSO reminded his listeners that they are entering a new

era of lessening government influence. "I for one look upon it with optimism and hope and not at all with regret to an era left behind," he said.

"There will be a new relationship between the blind and society as a whole," Jernigan said. "We are coming of age when our lives are not totally bound to agencies. It is not good that a blind person can't get a job using normal means unless an agency intervenes."

"This is in tune with the mood of the country," he said. Society said it was good to have the Great Society and the New Deal, but it came to the point where there was too much government interference. "The government must now take on a new relationship to the citizen," Jernigan said.

'Dreaming Dreams'

From the Laurens County Advertiser

"You have to believe in yourself and you have to dream dreams," said Glenn McCoy.

Although he has been blind since birth, McCoy is a senior at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Ga. A likeable, outgoing man, he was at Presbyterian College attending the 25th annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

McCoy, 27, was born at Shaw Air Force Base while his father was serving in the U.S. Air Force. His parents settled down in Sumter in 1969.

McCoy attended boarding school at the state-supported Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia, Pa., through the seventh grade, when he enrolled in the Sumter public schools. While he did not date because of shyness, he did participate in the high school Broadcast Club and the wrestling team.

He confessed to feeling inferior to

sighted people, until a friend introduced him to the National Federation of the Blind in 1973.

"DONALD CAPPS" (president of the South Carolina affiliate) told me it was OK to be blind," he said. "As a senior in high school, I came into my own."

After graduating from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in religious studies, McCoy decided to attend Emory University's theology school.

"If you ask me why I felt called to the ministry, I'll say I don't know. I never will know," McCoy said. "I have had a general interest in it since high school although I did rebel for some time."

"I BECAME interested in it again in college. I knew I came home in the ministry. God wished me in this work somehow," he said.

Although he will graduate next year, McCoy wonders whether he will be ac-

cepted into the United Methodist Conference. "It will be on my own ability. One of my supervising ministers told me I should be a chaplain at a school for the blind," he said.

"I will have problems in transportation unless I go into campus ministry," said McCoy, who has been using a guide dog for the past year. "I would like to do parish work."

"THERE IS no overt discrimination against the blind at Emory," he said, although he experienced some

discrimination at the University of South Carolina. When other students would not reach out, McCoy said, "he felt isolation and loneliness."

"The blind are not different emotionally, physically or spiritually," McCoy said. "People are people. Some people you have rapport with, and some you won't."

"You have to accept discouragement and live with your pain," he said, "but you also have to enjoy the good times, too. The lows won't be so low and the highs won't be so high."

From the President's Desk

By Donald C. Capps

It is a rewarding experience for any blind South Carolinian to attend a national convention and state convention of the blind as we have just done in recent weeks. The national convention held the first week in July followed very closely by the 25th anniversary of the NFB of SC held the weekend of August 1 and 2, 1981 were great events and both served to enhance the quality of life for blind South Carolinians and the blind throughout the country. As evidenced by other articles appearing in this issue of the *Palmetto Blind* it is apparent that many fine things are happening to upgrade life for the blind. Presbyterian College, located in Clinton, proved to be an excellent site for the silver anniversary convention. The facilities were very adequate.

Presbyterian College officials were cordial and helpful in every respect. The Laurens County Chapter of the NFB of SC deserves our highest commendations as it was a model chapter host. Many persons, especially members of the host chapter worked long hours doing a

variety of things to assure the best possible convention arrangements. It is no easy task to successfully promote a state convention of the size enjoyed by the NFB of SC. Additionally, there are many more details to be handled when a state convention is held at a non-commercial hotel or on a college campus.

This year's convention featured excellent speakers in different programs of service to the state's blind. Your state president was also very proud of the fine performances of so many Federationists who were featured throughout the convention. All of us were greatly honored to have our distinguished national president, Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, who made such a significant contribution to our state convention. The sound/slide documentary presented at the noon luncheon on Saturday was one of a series of presentations designed to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the NFB of SC. It is an excellent documentary. Some 300 persons attending the Saturday evening banquet will not soon forget the color

and excitement of the memorable evening. Many prestigious awards were presented during the evening. Charters were presented to three new chapters — Pickens County, Myrtle Beach, and Marion County. The NFB of SC is now comprised of twenty-six affiliates including 22 chapters, 2 statewide divisions, The Federation Center of the Blind and Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind. The Aiken Chapter through its representative, Mrs. Earlene Gardner, presented a \$200.00 check at the banquet to Rocky Bottom. Penrose Stogner of the Florence Chapter was the recipient of the Donald C. Capps Award, presented by Marshall Tucker. Mr. Sinclair A. Eisan of Charleston received the Associate's Award for outstanding service. A scholarship of \$100.00 was presented to the NFB of SC on behalf of Budweiser by Mr. Ed Robinson of the Commission for the Blind. Bob Bell, First Vice President of the NFB of SC, made the presentation of the Ellen Beach Mack Home Award which was in the amount of \$999.60 this year, the highest ever. The recipient of the Ellen Beach Mack Home Award is Ms. Caroline Govan of Orangeburg. The first Employer of the Year Award was presented to Seibels Bruce and Company of Columbia by Mrs. Mattie B. "Tootsie" Gatlin — Second Vice President of the NFB of SC. Our own Lois Boltin Tucker, who has been associated with Seibels Bruce and Company for eighteen years accepted the award on behalf of Seibels Bruce. Congratulations to Lois, who was recently promoted to Supervisor. For many years Lois served as receptionist and PBX switchboard operator for Seibels Bruce. Glenn McCoy, a student at Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta was the

recipient of the annual Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton Memorial Scholarship Award. Bob Oglesby, State Secretary, made the presentation. Your president was pleased to present the Distinguished Service Award to Commissioner Maxine R. Bowles, a presentation covered in a separate article in this issue.

Many meaningful resolutions impacting upon programs affecting the blind were adopted by the state convention. The terms of a number of state board members expired in 1981 and while they will be missed they were replaced by capable Federationists. Persons who were elected to the state board for three-year terms are as follows: Mrs. Frances Messer, S. C. Blind Vendors Association; Joe Stribling, Oconee Chapter; Mrs. Edrie Culp, Chester Chapter; Mr. Russell Sawyer, Beaufort Chapter; Odell Austin, Orangeburg Chapter; Gary Bratcher, Conway Chapter; James Sims, Columbia Chapter; Ruby Lawson, Laurens Chapter; Patricia Tuck, Pickens Chapter; Mercedes Royal, Myrtle Beach Chapter; and Gloria Baker, Marion Chapter.

The 1982 convention of the NFB of SC will be held the weekend of July 30, 31, and August 1, 1982 at the Clemson House on the campus of Clemson University. The 25th anniversary convention of the NFB of SC was the biggest and best and Federationists across the state are looking forward to the 1982 convention in Clemson. In reading this issue of the *Palmetto Blind* it will be apparent to all that many fine things are being made to happen which will better the lives of blind South Carolinians as well as the nation's blind. It is great being a part of this challenging and rewarding opportunity of service.

Final Thought

(Editor's Note: The *Palmetto Blind* expresses appreciation to Mrs. Patricia Tuck for providing the "Final Thought" for this issue.)

Final Thought

God is like — Bayer Aspirin
He works wonders.

God is like — Ford.
He's got a better idea.

God is like — Pan Am.
He makes the going great.

God is like — Dial Soap
He gives 'round the clock protection.

God is like — Coke.
He's the real thing.

God is like — Scope.
He makes you feel fresh.

God is like — G. E. Light Bulbs.
He lights our path.

God is like — Hallmark Cards.
He cared enough,
to send the very best.





The Palmetto Blind

National Federation of the Blind of S. C.
(formerly the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)
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1530 16th St.
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FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND



The Palmetto Blind

The Voice of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina



Attorney General Daniel McLeod Addresses Statewide Seminar

FEBRUARY 1982

The Voice of
The National Federation of the Blind
of South Carolina
(Formerly The South Carolina
Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)

Editor: Donald C. Capps

Published Quarterly

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, formerly known as The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, is chartered under the laws of the state of South Carolina to promote the social, spiritual and economic well-being of all the blind of South Carolina.

The *Palmetto Blind* is provided free of charge by The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina to all blind South Carolinians and other interested persons, and is available in print, audio cassette editions, and braille from the Federation Center of the Blind.

Readers who receive the audio cassette editions are requested to handle the tapes with care and to *always return them promptly* for the benefit of other

users. If you should receive a bad tape, please let the Center know by dropping us a note enclosed with the bad cassette so that appropriate action may be taken to remove that cassette from our library. Braille and print copies may be retained by recipients for their personal libraries.

If you or a friend wish to remember The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc., also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, in your will you can do so by employing the following language:

"I give, devise and bequeath unto The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, P. O. Box 4174, Columbia, S. C. the sum of \$_____ (or "_____ percent of my net estate", or "the following stocks and bonds:_____") to be used for its worthy purposes on behalf of blind persons and to be held and administered by direction of its Executive Committee and Board of Directors."

Attorney General Addresses Statewide Seminar	1
Twelfth Annual Statewide Seminar Biggest and Best.....	6
Ousted Blind Vendor Expresses Feelings	8
Holmes Unanimous Choice as President, From the State, December 8, 1981	9
Judge Clements Approves of Blind Jurors	10
Alumni Holds Annual Meeting	11
Whittle Receives Promotion	11
Making Most of Life is a Bright Insight, From the State, December 21, 1981	12
Flashback.....	14
Minneapolis Trip Getting Ever Closer.....	14
Federation Center Acquires SCOIS Computer Terminal.....	15
Chimes Donated for the Dr. Sam Lawton Memorial Assembly Hall.....	15
State Convention to be Hosted by National Champs.....	15
White Oak Retreat for Blind Scheduled.....	16
From the President's Desk by Donald Capps.....	16
Final Thought.....	17

Attorney General Addresses Statewide Seminar

General Daniel McLeod, Attorney General of South Carolina, spoke to approximately two hundred Federationists attending the Twelfth Annual Statewide Seminar of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina on January 9, 1982. It was by far the largest group to ever attend the annual conference. The Federation Center of the Blind overflowed with Federationists from across the state.

General McLeod spoke to the group in response to an invitation from the President of the NFB of SC. General McLeod's appearance indicated the concern of the state's blind community and concerned officials regarding the ouster of four blind vendors by Spartanburg Technical College a week prior to Christmas.

General McLeod who is the highest legal officer in the state has demonstrated genuine concern for the untimely dismissals. From the outset, he has offered us his invaluable assistance.

NFB of SC Files Lawsuit

In what must be described as a heroic effort to salvage the jobs of the four blind vending facility operators at Spartanburg Technical College (namely Gary Williams, Pearl Oglesby, Joanne White and Gail Martin) the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina with the support of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind filed a lawsuit against Spartanburg Technical College on December 4, 1981.

The NFB of SC was represented in the litigation by Mr. Robert L. Stoddard, a former Mayor of Spartanburg. Mr. Stoddard is a member of the law firm Moore, Stoddard, Stoddard and Wood.

After considerable research and consultation, the suit against Spartanburg Technical College was filed under the Model White Cane Law. An earlier suit in

1980 against Spartanburg Technical College under the Vending Facility Law had been unsuccessful. In the 1980 case the Commission for the Blind had brought suit against Spartanburg Technical College primarily because of unfair competition due to vending machines being placed in close proximity to the operator's vending stands.

In the litigation filed on December 4, 1981 under the Model White Cane Law, it was alleged by the NFB of SC that "It is the policy of this State that the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled shall be employed in the state service, the service of the political subdivisions of the State, in the public schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms and conditions as the able-bodied, unless it is shown that the particular disability prevents the performance of the work involved." It was further alleged by the NFB of SC in the lawsuit that "Plaintiffs have no plain, adequate, or complete remedy to redress the wrongs alleged and this suit is the only available means of securing relief. Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury if no relief is granted against Defendants' unlawful acts as set forth herein."

In the latest lawsuit the NFB of SC requested a temporary injunction which would have allowed the vendors to keep their jobs, pending a decision on the merits of the matter.

Judge Stephen Rules Against the Blind

In a ruling handed down by presiding Judge James B. Stephen on December 17, 1981 the request for a temporary injunction against Spartanburg Technical College was denied. Stephen also ruled that Spartanburg Technical College was correct in relying upon a contract ex-

ecuted in the early 1970's with the Commission for the Blind which enabled either party to terminate the contract upon a thirty day notice.

In the earlier lawsuit in 1980, Judge Stephen had ruled that provisions of the state's Vending Facility Law enacted in 1978 were not relevant and that the earlier contract negotiated between the Commission for the Blind and Spartanburg Technical College was binding. Section 10 of the 1978 Vending Facility Law reads as follows: "Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, no vending facility operated by a blind person on public property, including technical education institutions on the effective date of this act shall be terminated or closed without written approval of the Commission and such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld."

Judge Stephen's comments in his December 17, 1981 ruling indicate that his decision was influenced by his earlier ruling in 1980 when litigation was brought by the Commission for Blind under the Vending Facility Law. In this regard Judge Stephen stated that "Where different statutes involve the same or similar subject matter, they should be taken together and construed in *pari materia* (in the same manner)." "They should be construed as one system and explanatory of each other." Thus, it seems that Judge Stephen did not consider the lawsuit most recently filed by the NFB of SC and the Commission for the Blind should come solely under the provisions of the Model White Cane Law. Stephen was obviously influenced by his unfavorable ruling handed down in 1980.

In both rulings Judge Stephen ruled that technical colleges were exempt under the Vending Facility Law. In his ruling Judge Stephen stated, "Therefore the court must conclude the legislature intended to not create a cause of action for

the Commission with regard to the actions of Spartanburg Technical College." To the contrary, the position of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina and others is that Section 10 of the Vending Facility Law is crystal clear and indeed does provide for the continuation of vending facilities operated by the blind in technical colleges on the date the Vending Facility Law was signed into law. Since no appeal to the 1980 ruling was filed by the Commission this position could not be made a part of the 1981 litigation filed by the NFB of SC and the Commission for the Blind.

Concerning the Model White Cane Law, Judge Stephen stated "First, the court considers if these plaintiffs are members of the class for whose especial benefit the statute was enacted. *Simpson v. Reynolds Metals Co., Inc.*, 629 F.2d 1226 (1980). Clearly these blind individuals are members of the class for whose benefit the statute was created. Second, is there any indication of legislative intent, explicit or implicit, either to create such a remedy or to deny one? *Simpson, supra*. On its face, this statute gives no explicit indication of legislative intent. However, the fact of its enactment implies legislative intent to create an individual remedy, otherwise a mere statement of policy to employ the blind could be construed as verbiage. The final consideration is whether the statute is consistent with the underlying purpose of the legislative scheme to imply such a remedy for the plaintiffs. *Simpson, supra*. It is with this consideration the court regretfully concludes that to imply a private remedy from this statute is inconsistent with S. C. Code Ann. 43-26-10, et. seq. (1980 Cum. Supp.) and does violence" to the overall legislative scheme. The narrow issue of the operation of vending facilities by blind persons raised by this complaint must be controlled by S.

C. Code Ann. 43-26-10, et seq. (1980 Cum. Supp.). Again, the court emphasizes the legislature explicitly excluded the application of Chapter 26 to technical education institutions. Therefore, regardless of the court's sympathy with the position of these individuals, to imply a private cause of action from S. C. Code Ann. 43-33-60 (1976) would violate the court's duty to construe statutes consistent with the underlying legislative scheme."

While the language used by Judge Stephen in reaching his final decision appears almost apologetic to the blind, its effect upon the blind is still devastating. The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina and others disagree with Judge Stephen in his 1980 ruling, especially that section 10 of the Vending Facility Law was not applicable to Spartanburg Technical College.

The NFB of SC believes that the Model White Cane Law (as enacted by the General Assembly) is meaningful, or represents what Judge Stephen designated as "just verbiage."

Governor Riley's Help Sought

Even before Judge Stephen made his unfavorable ruling, the NFB of SC had sought the assistance of Governor Dick Riley. On December 1, 1981 the NFB of SC sent the following telegram to Governor Riley:

Dear Governor Riley,

The White Cane Statute, Act 1425, 1972, states that "it is the policy of this State to encourage and enable the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the state and to engage in remunerative employment." It states further that "the

blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled shall be employed in the state service, the service of the political subdivisions of the State, in the public schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms and conditions as the able-bodied, unless it is shown that the particular disability prevents the performance of the work involved."

Spartanburg TEC has violated the spirit if not the letter of this law, by serving notice of termination to four blind vendors, at least three of whom will become unemployed as a result on December 18, 1981. Spartanburg TEC will install and operate a hot food service of its own, although the South Carolina Commission for the Blind has repeatedly stated that they can provide ample personnel and equipment to run a first-rate hot food service. This outright rejection by Spartanburg TEC of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind's vendor program constitutes insensitivity and greed, and reflects a waste of thousands of dollars if expenditures by Spartanburg TEC are made on equipment which is already available through the S. C. Commission for the Blind's programs.

You may recall that last year Sumter TEC in an eleventh hour movement added a proviso to the General Appropriations Bill, seizing control of the food service at Sumter TEC.

The Technical Education Institutions in this state should be fair to all citizens including the blind. I appreciated your fine comments at Sunday evening's Carol Lighting expressing compassion, love, and good will to all. We request that you, as Chief Executive of this State, use your high office to bring about fair play on the part of Spartanburg TEC officials. Mr. Robert Stoddard, former mayor of Spar-

tanburg, is assisting the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina; however, we also appeal to you to help us to the extent propriety and fair play dictates.

Sincerely,
Donald C. Capps, President
National Federation of the Blind
of South Carolina

In his address to the two hundred Federationists who gathered for the 12th Annual Statewide Seminar, Attorney General Daniel McLeod indicated that he felt Judge Stephen was probably correct in his rulings. Attorney General McLeod based this conclusion upon his understanding that, once a contract is entered into between two parties, it cannot be impaired by subsequent law. Thus, Attorney General McLeod felt that the contract entered into by the Commission for the Blind and Spartanburg Technical College in the early 1970's was binding and was not affected by the subsequent Vending Facility Law passed in 1978. While the NFB of SC does not question Attorney General McLeod's opinion, it seems strange that any contract entered into between two state agencies cannot be nullified by a subsequent law. Attorney General McLeod indicated that the Vending Facility Law may be ambiguous with respect to the exclusion of technical colleges, while the position of the NFB of SC is that Section 10 of the law is clear and does not exclude them. The Attorney General felt that a legislative remedy is more desirable than making an appeal of Judge Stephen's December 17, 1981 ruling, especially since it could be three to four years before the State's Supreme Court would act on the appeal. Even then, Attorney General McLeod felt that the State's Supreme Court probably would not overturn Judge Stephen's ruling. After considerable discussion, the State

Board of the NFB of SC voted to seek a legislative remedy as recommended by Attorney General McLeod. Additionally, the two hundred Federationists who listened attentively to Attorney General McLeod concurred unanimously in this position.

The people attending the seminar also heard from Commissioner Maxine Bowles of the S. C. Commission for the Blind who expressed a similar opinion that the legislative remedy seemed more appropriate.

Second Meeting Held with Attorney General McLeod

On January 21, 1982 Federation officials, Commissioner Maxine Bowles and several prominent legislators met with Attorney General McLeod to further discuss the Spartanburg TEC situation. Following the January 9, 1982 seminar, the NFB of SC had done considerable research regarding the entire technical college situation. This information was presented at this meeting, and included the following material:

"AND THEN THERE WAS ONE . . ."

David Rice is a licensed blind vendor who left a vending stand in private industry to take over a seemingly more secure and profitable vending facility at Williamsburg TEC. The move has been profitable. The job security, which was rooted in State law, has all but vanished. In the past six months three blind-operated vending facilities located at technical education schools have been forced to close. The most recent closures took place on December 18, 1981 at Spartanburg TEC resulting in the loss of employment for four blind persons . . . just before Christmas. The pride of buying his own home may be short-lived for Gary Williams (one of the vendors) and his young wife.

Of the six vending stands which have been installed by the South Carolina Commission for the Blind and operated by licensed blind vendors, only one has not fallen victim to the disturbing trend of closures. Is it only a matter of time? Will the rhyme end" . . . and then there were none?" We, the blind, trust and pray it will not!

"WE REALLY HATE TO DO IT, BUT . . ."

It is becoming a very old story. The reasons (excuses) are all too well-known.

"We're not against blind people," Hudgins emphasizes, "But at the same time we want to meet the needs of our increased student enrollment." — from the *Item*. (Sumter TEC maintained that canteen proceeds were needed to help repay a loan to build a student center.)

The Spartanburg County Commission for Technical Education, despite assurances from the South Carolina Commission for the Blind that a hot food service could be provided by licensed blind vendors, found it necessary to look elsewhere to provide the services and concessions appropriate to the needs of the student body.

BLIND PEOPLE CAN DO THE JOB!

"When you came here, you certainly did improve our food service over what we had previously. I only hope that we will be able to operate the canteen as efficiently as you have." — excerpt from a letter to a blind vendor from a TEC official.

Sometimes a blind person does too well! Frances Messer made close to \$17,000 in her vending stand operation before York TEC found it necessary to take the operation over. After litigation Frances was allowed to resume operation of a vending facility at York TEC. It was in a remote location on the campus, however, and in competition with the TEC-operated food service. Her annual earnings dropped to \$7,300.

Piedmont TEC charitably offered a job to the blind vendor whose operation they took over. He refused the job offer, however, as it would have meant a substantial cut in his previous nearly \$18,000 a year salary.

When Sumter TEC won the operation of their canteen through an eleventh hour amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill in 1979, they offered the operating blind vendor an opportunity to become a state employee. In doing so they also deprived him of additional earnings in future years.

Vending facilities can be profitable operations . . . some believe too profitable for blind persons.

WHO IS REALLY PAYING THE PRICE?

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind invested \$98,155 to set up the TEC stands which have now been closed. The costs incurred in removing the canteens totalled \$4,323. Storage costs have totalled \$2,340 to date.

The income tax and sales tax generated by the blind vendors for whom these operations were established have more than met the State's investment. Hopefully those unemployed vendors can quickly resume their roles as taxpayers and leave behind their dependency on state and federal aid programs.

In these times of austerity how can technical education institutions justify the costs of creating more state jobs and installing food services which can already be provided by the South Carolina Commission for the Blind at no cost to the schools. Very simply, it cannot be justified. The taxpayers will bear the burden. Mr. William Dudley, Jr., Executive Director of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education has been requested to provide information to the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina concerning the

establishment and operation of food service facilities at York, Piedmont, Sumter and Spartanburg Technical Colleges. We believe it will be revealing.

THE BOTTOM LINE . . .

Over the years the South Carolina General Assembly has responded with concern and action to the needs of blind citizens. In 1966 the South Carolina Commission for the Blind was established. In 1972 the "White Cane Law" established State policy in employment and other areas relating to the blind. In 1979, the "Right to Work Law" strongly outlined the State's commitment to the blind vendors program. Although the law specifies that vending facilities operated by a blind person at technical education institutions on the effective date of the act could not be closed or terminated without written approval of the Commission, each technical education institution which has sought to do so has been successful in bypassing disapproval by the Commission.

The rulings of Judge Stephen and others have eliminated the employment of some blind persons. They have weakened the "Right to Work Law" and added to the 70% unemployment rate among the blind. The bottom line is whether or not this State is truly committed to employment of the blind. We believe it must be! We stand ready to join in the challenge of solidifying that commitment through legislative or by other appropriate means.

While the results of the January 21, 1982 meeting in Attorney General McLeod's office were not entirely conclusive, there was a unanimous feeling that the blind had suffered a great loss and were entitled to some reasonable remedy. Presently, considerable thought is being given to what type of legislation should be introduced, the appropriate time to introduce the legislation, and the

feasibility of holding private meetings to negotiate with certain state officials, (including technical education officials).

The NFB of SC will continue to monitor this matter very closely and will do what is in the best interest of the blind of the state.

Twelfth Annual Statewide Seminar Biggest and Best

The Twelfth Annual Statewide Seminar held Saturday, January 9, 1982 at the Federation Center of the Blind was by far the biggest and best to date. Approximately two hundred Federationists filled the Center to capacity. This crowd represented a clear indication of growth and enthusiasm from across the state. Several new members attended their first seminar and found it to be an informative and rewarding experience.

The large group heard a stirring address given by our National President, Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, on the steps of the nation's capitol last July. The State President, Donald Capps, outlined several 1982 goals for the NFB of SC. He also reported that there would be monthly training conferences for chapter leaders at the Federation Center of the Blind. Additionally, Capps reported that a program would be initiated known as "Center Day." A day will be set aside for each chapter and division to become more familiar with the overall Federation operation.

Tommy McNeill, of the Greenwood Chapter, described his trip to Malaysia and programs for the blind in that distant land. Much of the morning was devoted to the appearance of Attorney General Daniel McLeod and the presentation of the Spartanburg Technical College matter.

A delightful luncheon (sponsored by the Columbia Telephone Pioneers) was enjoyed by all. During the luncheon, a State Board meeting was held. Robert L. Oglesby of Spartanburg and Tootsie Gatlin of Charleston were elected official delegate and alternate delegate respectively, and will represent the NFB of SC at the national convention.

There was great excitement at the beginning of the afternoon session. Mr. C. A. Gatlin (Chairman of the statewide campaign for the Minneapolis bus fund) was the source of all the color and excitement. He commended the members for an outstanding effort in selling tickets for the national convention trip and then the winning ticket was drawn. None other than Joe Goodman of the Columbia Chapter was the proud winner of \$600.00 since he both sold and bought the winning ticket. C. A. also told the group that it was necessary to have a second campaign in order to meet the cost of \$9,000 needed to charter the two buses for Minneapolis in July. More tickets were distributed and Federation chapters and divisions throughout the state are undoubtedly on the job already selling the second quota of tickets.

During the afternoon session President Capps again explained the PAC program of the NFB and the Associate program. Capps stated that he felt every Federationist is morally obligated to provide some support to the national organization. Although no one can tell anyone how much to give, Capps pointed out that it is essential to support the Federation on a local, state and national level.

Information was provided to the group concerning the National Accreditation Council for agencies serving the blind and visually handicapped. Mrs. Earlene Gardner of the Aiken Chapter explained that she and her husband, Charles, enjoyed

their participation in their first NAC tracking experience last November in Atlanta.

A complete report was given on the Rocky Bottom program. Delegates were thanked for their support. Reservations for Rocky Bottom were made by chapter and division leaders for 1982. Jerry Whittle presented a fund-raising scheme to the NFB of SC. Flower seeds prepared by Park Seed Company of Greenwood are now being sold by NFB of SC chapters and divisions to fund the camp.

The 1982 national convention and the state convention were discussed in detail. Fred Armfield, President of the Greenwood Chapter, talked about grants he had procured for his chapter which enabled the acquisition of a new fifteen passenger bus. President Armfield also described the successful bingo operation which is sponsored by the Greenwood Chapter.

A great deal of business was conducted at the one-day seminar resulting in much information being disseminated.

Suzanne Bridges, Executive Director of the Federation Center of the Blind, reported on the new computer terminal and explained that the Center's new computer would be useful in employment for the blind. The installation of the computer terminal cost approximately \$580.00. Within a matter of a few minutes most of the \$580.00 was donated or pledged. More details about the use and benefits of the computer terminal appear in another article in this issue.

The first statewide seminar was held in 1971 and was attended by approximately forty persons. Since that time, attendance has increased by 500%. All annual seminars have been appreciated by the Federation membership; however, it seems that the 1982 seminar had more depth and greater participation than previous ones. Undoubtedly, this was due

to the loss of employment by blind vendors. Federationists clearly demonstrated that they will stand firm and work shoulder to shoulder when blind citizens are not being treated fairly.

Ousted Blind Vendor Expresses Feelings

(Editor's Note: Gary Williams made the following speech to the two hundred Federationists attending the statewide seminar on January 9, 1982.)

There are very few words that you can use to explain the emotions that are going through you when you have been notified that your job is in jeopardy. We were told in September that our jobs were to be terminated on December 18, 1981. The TEC school led us to believe that there were still possible chances for negotiation. The TEC school led the Commission to believe this, even up until the very first of December. Mr. Gault, the president of that noble school, even came down to Columbia and visited some of the Commission's canteens. Mr. Gault never once spoke to us, to Joan or as far as I know to Pearl or Gail. I know he didn't speak a word to me about us losing our jobs. Never once did he say that he was sorry or regretted or wished there was something he could do. It is very hard to go through a situation like this when you have been led on for three months believing that the TEC school is going to work something out and to find out it was only a ploy to prevent us from taking any action. The first of December it was very apparent that the TEC school was not going to negotiate with us. Miss Suzanne Bridges came up to Spartanburg TEC and brought some petitions. The petition was placed in the canteen in the East Building which is the canteen which I operate, and one was placed also in the West Building. The petition that was placed in the West Building was torn up

by a member of the faculty of Spartanburg Technical College. The other petition in my canteen was not torn up but the TEC school convened a meeting of all the students and told them that they were going to make sure that every name on the petition was a student of Spartanburg Technical College and be sure that each name was the legitimate name of the student involved. They also told the students at this meeting that blind people could not legally handle fresh food, that the only types of food and beverages that we could handle were prepackaged beverages and foods. Now, of course, I am sure all of you who are in vending stand work know that coke fountains don't dispense prepackaged cokes but that is what they told them. They also told that we had been inadequately trained. Well, I was an assistant manager in one of the canteens in Spartanburg for three years and over a year a half I have been a manager. Now, that is just about five years of experience. Even if I had been so inadequately trained, I don't think I could have stayed in business. I don't think I could have made the salary that I made in that time if I had not had the training. Even without training, the experience gave me the training. This would disqualify what they said. They turned a lot of the students against us. It is hard to lose your job even when your job is taken away because a plant is being clos-

ed or a computer takes over your position, or when some other mechanism takes over your job. But to lose your job because you did a good job, because you were making a profit, because you were making a success of yourself, is even harder. It's harder to understand, it's harder to go home and tell your family, you know I am losing my job because I did a good job, because I took something and did well with it, it's hard to go through. My wife and I have had the worst three months of our lives. We are just now beginning to get ourselves back together. The uncertainties and the other things that go along with this are disturbing. Our state president came to me at an Alumni meeting and told me that the Federation was going to do everything that it could. It really made me feel good to know that a statewide organization was supporting. The fact other blind people were supporting and understood made me feel good. It is gratifying to know that there is an organization in this state, in this nation, and in our city that cared enough to do something. No, we didn't win a particular victory but I think we demonstrated something. We demonstrated that we are not going to be pushed around, that we are going to fight. Even if we lose, we will fight, for it is truly better to have fought and lost than to have never fought at all and I thank you for the support you gave us. I thank you for the moral support, for the monetary support and contributing to the lawsuit and for the friendship you have given us. If it had not been for that I don't think that my wife and I could have made it through and we appreciate it and we thank you.

Holmes Unanimous Choice as President

From The State, December 8, 1981

A long-time troubleshooter in state government, Dr. A. Baron Holmes IV, never intended to stay more than a few months at the South Carolina School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multi-Handicapped at Cedar Spring.

However, last week he accepted the school board's unanimous appointment as president of the institution, ending a two-year national search for a chief executive.

Holmes, 36, had served since October 1980 in an interim capacity, planning to step down as soon as a replacement was found.

But Board Chairman Doug Dent of Greenville said the search committee couldn't find anyone to top Holmes, who has expertise in politics and economics, and who has the endorsement of both deaf and blind statewide associations.

"Dr. Holmes has proved himself an outstanding administrator during his short time at the school," Dent said. "We are particularly happy to have someone with Dr. Holmes' expertise in state government and economics to guide the school through this period of budgetary restraint."

Holmes stepped in to tackle a host of problems after the school had trouble finding and keeping a president, beginning with the retirement of Newton F. Walker that June.

Walker was a grandson of the founder and fifth in his family to head the school. His successor, Dr. Richard E. Hyer Jr., stayed three weeks before resigning suddenly and without public explanation to return to his former job as superintendent of the Georgia Academy for the Blind at

Macon.

The board turned to Holmes because of his intense involvement in a study of management problems at Cedar Springs. That study was conducted by the state Reorganization Commission, where Holmes was special projects director.

Before that, Holmes had held a series of complex government jobs that began shortly after he earned his doctorate from the University of North Carolina and his master's from Princeton.

Holmes had been an energy adviser to former Gov. John C. West and research director of the South Carolina House Ways and Means Committee.

He designed the capital improvements plan now used by the state and was instrumental in establishment of the state Bond Review Committee.

At the Reorganization Commission, he was involved in the study of management problems at the Medical University of South Carolina and in state purchasing, personnel and motor vehicle programs.

At the School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Handicapped, Holmes declined use of a state car and refused to live in the president's mansion, opting instead for an apartment in the administration building.

The door was open to students and staff. and Holmes started right away learning sign language. He also began preparations to certify the multi-handicapped school for Medicaid payments.

The school serves 500 students. They live on the campus during the school week but spend weekends at home.

Judge Clements Approves of Blind Jurors

(Editor's Note: While the blind juror legislation cannot be introduced in 1982 because of the rules of the General Assembly, Judge Clements' letter is very relevant to this situation.)

October 28, 1981

Dear Don:

I must apologize for not having responded to your letter of August 31, 1981, concerning the amendment of the jury statute, relating to blind persons serving on juries. My delay in part, was due to the fact, that I am co-executor of a deceased relative's will, in which, many problems arose, that required my attention and time.

I share fully the statements that you made in your letter, concerning this matter. As an attorney, I have tried all types of cases, criminal, civil, before juries, in the several courts, of our State. I have argued cases before our Supreme Court. As Master in Equity, for Florence County, for more than twenty years, I have heard, every kind of Equity case imaginable. These include accounting cases, requiring study and analysis of documents, accounting ledgers, etc. also, I have had brought before me cases involving boundary disputes, wherein, surveys were involved, partition in kind, mortgage foreclosure, divorce cases, partnership dissolutionment and the like. I will state emphatically that my total blindness, has not interfered with, nor caused any problems in any of these cases.

There is no reason, in my opinion, why any person, who happens to be legally or totally blind, cannot adequately discharge his or her duties as a member of any jury in any of the courts of our State, provided he or she, is otherwise qualified.

I appreciate your kind remarks, concerning my career in the legal, judicial and legislative fields. I voluntarily retired in October, 1980, some three years before the expiration of my term of office. I am now living part of the time at Longboat Key, Florida. Please use my Florida address for all further correspondence.

I wish to congratulate you, Don on your appointment by the Governor, as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, where I know you will serve capably and with dedication. You have done much in your years of service in various capacities to help our fellow blind. You may use this letter in any way you see fit.

I remain
Sincerely yours
J. B. Clements

Alumni Holds Annual Meeting

The Alumni Association meeting of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind was held on Saturday, November 21, 1981 at the School. The highlight of the event was the Saturday evening banquet. Mr. Doug Dent of Greenville, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the School, gave the keynote address. The School's President, Dr. Baron Holmes, also spoke to the former students. Both Chairman Dent and President Holmes reported continuing progress at the School despite funding cutbacks and reduction in staff. Robert L. Oglesby of Spartanburg was re-elected President of the Alumni Association. The immediate past president of the School, Mr. N. F. Walker, was a welcomed guest at the banquet. Approximately forty persons were in attendance during this one-day event.

Whittle Receives Promotion

Jerry Whittle, who joined the staff of the Federation Center of the Blind in January 1981, has been promoted from Staff Assistant to Special Projects Director. A native of Clemson and a graduate of Clemson University, Jerry has been active in the Federation since 1976 and served as the first president of the Oconee County Chapter.

In December of 1980, Jerry received his master's degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Having long expressed a desire to pursue a career with the Federation, Jerry has steadily developed programs at the Federation Center of the Blind. Jerry is people oriented and is very good with persons of all ages. Possessing a pleasant personality, Jerry gets along with everyone very well. As a gifted writer, he is always using his talent to further the programs of the Federation.

In his new position as Special Projects Director, Jerry will continue to promote a variety of projects, and serve the Federation in other valuable roles. Federationists will want to congratulate Jerry on his new position. Certainly all of us feel fortunate that he is working with the Federation.

Making Most of Life is a Bright Insight

From *The State* December 21, 1981

(Editor's Note: Steve was recently elected president of the Aiken County Chapter of the NFB of SC)

Steve, 34, is a partially sighted Aiken resident who works for a finance company.

He is legally blind because of a progressive, often hereditary, eye disease known as retinitis pigmentosa, a degeneration of the retina that results in a loss of peripheral and night vision.

Steve has known for a long time that he is going blind, but he has prepared himself.

His preparation for living with blindness displays his determination to succeed and the willingness of his employer to help Steve maintain his job.

The cooperation between Steve's employer, Barclays American/Finance, and the South Carolina Commission for the Blind demonstrates a mutual desire to see a productive individual continue to work for the benefit of all involved.

"I thought everybody else saw the same way I did," Steve said while recalling his first encounter with visual problems in the early 1970's. He was referred from his regular physician to an ophthalmologist who conducted an examination and then called Steve into his office.

"The doctor began filling out a form and told me he could certify me for disability right then and there. I asked him what he was talking about, and he told me I was legally blind!"

It took time for Steve to cope with that statement. In fact, "it was two or three years before I overcame the psychological problems of blindness," Steve said.

"The worst thing at the time was I had trouble with the fact that I couldn't drive an automobile," Steve said. "I got to the point I didn't trust myself on the road, so I gave up my license."

Inability to drive created a few changes in his family lifestyle too. Steve has to rely on his wife to chauffeur him places. At work, fellow employees drove him around the Aiken area until a change in job responsibilities eliminated the need for him to travel.

"Barclays American has been super in their efforts to accommodate me and my working conditions," he said. "They have been very cooperative; in fact they have gone overboard."

Barclays installed extra lighting in Steve's office to give him the concentrated rays needed to do paperwork and read credit reports on prospective customers. Heather Campbell, personnel relations manager for Barclays American in the firm's Charlotte, N. C., cooperate headquarters, was instrumental in securing professional assistance and counseling for him from the South Carolina Commission for the Blind.

Jim Davis of the Commission met with Steve in August 1980 and recommended special optical equipment that would help him use his residual vision. Steve was loaned a closed-circuit television system to aid in reading small print and credit reports, along with a lighted magnifier and a calculator.

Davis talked at length with Steve about accepting a loss of sight, and Steve was advised to look into an outreach program being conducted in the Aiken area by the Commission for the Blind.

In the fall of 1980, Steve began taking lessons at the outreach program under the guidance of Ed Robinson, mobility specialist for the Commission. Robinson made himself available to work during Steve's lunch hour.

Steve progressed with the basic skills and continued to work toward crossing a street by himself while wearing a blind-fold. He was a little nervous about the crossing, but later boasted, "Ed had prepared me so well that by the time we reached the point where I had to cross a street by myself, I had all the confidence in the world"

"A person with a visual problem can get around as well as a sighted person with the proper training and confidence. You can go anywhere and do just about anything with pride," Steve said.

Education of the public about the abilities of a properly trained blind persons, and blindness itself, is a serious need.

"A blind person wants to be accepted like anyone else," Steve said.

Steve is concerned that sighted people tend to ignore blind people. "I sometimes think the general public feels you shouldn't enjoy things because you are blind. You'll find me at Clemson and South Aiken High football games during the season.

A blind person still gets the same thrill of the sport, the crowd noise, and the enthusiasm even if they can't see. My son played second base on a local baseball team. I couldn't see him, but I could enjoy the game just the same and feel proud of his accomplishments.

Steve had advice for people who are going blind and those who are already blind:

"The main thing is that people who have a visual impairment need to first overcome the psychological problems

connected with a loss of sight, and then be able to accept this and extend a hand for help. It's a hand of friendship, not a hand-out.

"I would admonish them to admit they have a problem, then seek help and assistance available through the various agencies and their employer. But, the first step is with the person."

He also advised people to plan for the future. "If I plan and prepare ahead," he said, "I can use the training and techniques I've learned in another field. I can be an asset, not a liability."

The family has to accept too. "All my family has been good. My children are exceptionally good with me when we go out at night because I can't see anything in dim light," he said.

Steve has reached a level of self-satisfaction. "I have been able to keep my self-esteem and have realized I can be whatever I want to be. I can continue to be a productive member of my family and society.

"If it had not been for Barclays American, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, the equipment they loaned me, the adaptation of my job skills and the faith of my family and church, I would not be working today. I felt I could do more, but I didn't know how to do it.

"Barclays American has been super throughout this whole process, and they have set an example for other companies to follow.

Preparation, as part of acceptance of blindness, Steve said, is one of the main elements in achieving independence, and acceptance begins with the individual.

He smiled broadly and said, "If it is to be, it is up to me!"

Flashback

(Editor's Note: 20 years ago the organized blind were on the job promoting benefits for the state's blind. The following article appeared in the May 1962 issue of the Palmetto Auroran.)

\$300,000 Again Appropriated for Cash Assistance to the Blind

S. C.'s General Assembly for the second straight year has appropriated for the 1962-63 fiscal year \$300,000 which has been ear-marked as cash assistance to the needy blind. Prior to the convening of the 1962 General Assembly, the S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind learned that the State Department of Public Welfare for the first time had requested the sum of \$300,000 for this category, and as a result the club was glad to support the department. In 1961 the Department of Public Welfare submitted a request of \$250,000 for aid to the needy blind.

The Aurora Club commends the Welfare Department in hiking its 1962 budget request by \$50,000 over 1961. In addition, the club is proud to have played a leading role in these legislative gains for the blind of the State. We trust that more team work of this type will occur in the future.

Minneapolis Trip Getting Ever Closer

The 1982 national convention to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota is only a few months away. Before any of us hardly realize it, two chartered buses will be departing from the Federation Center of the Blind in Columbia on Saturday, July 3rd. Plans have been made for overnight stops in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Days Inn on both Saturday night, July 3rd and on Saturday night, July 10th. Days Inns

have a good reputation and rates are reasonable — singles \$25.09; doubles \$28.69 and \$4.00 for each additional person in the room. As in the past it will be necessary for you to make an advance deposit for the two nights; however all arrangements are being coordinated at the Federation Center of the Blind which is working with a local travel agency. Thus, you should make your reservation directly with the Federation Center of the Blind, 119 S. Kilbourne Road, Columbia, S. C. 29205. Please send in your reservation as soon as possible. It will be necessary for you to send a \$25.00 check or money order with your reservation and \$25.00 deposit to the Federation Center no later than June 1, 1982. Naturally, the \$25.00 deposit will be applied toward the cost of the room for the two nights. Your deposit of \$25.00 is not refundable. Thus, if you are riding the bus, you must be sure of your attendance. Persons making reservations on the two chartered buses after June 1, cannot be guaranteed a seat on the bus or an accommodation at Days Inn; therefore, if you plan to ride the bus, make your reservation immediately. As in the past all bus reservations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Should you file your reservation after capacity of both buses have been exhausted, there can be no assurance that you will be accommodated since drop-outs cannot be relied upon.

A trip of this scope, involving two chartered buses with overnight stops requires considerable planning. Send a check or money order for \$25.00 as a deposit toward your room. Please be sure to make your check or money order payable to the NFB of SC. If you have any further questions, please call the Federation Center of the Blind at 254-3777.

Federationists, it is essential for all tickets which were distributed at the statewide seminar be sold by the

chapters and divisions if the cost of the two chartered buses is to be met. We can have a large delegation at the national convention if we all work together. Remember to make your hotel reservation directly with the Leamington Hotel, 1014 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404. Also, remember to send along a \$20.00 deposit to the Leamington Hotel which is not refundable but will be applied toward the cost of the hotel room.

Federation Center Acquires SCOIS Computer Terminal

The Federation Center of the Blind recently acquired a computer terminal from SCOIS. SCOIS — The South Carolina Occupational Information System is a computerized delivery system of up-to-date career, occupational and educational information. SCOIS was established by the S. C. Occupational Information Coordinating Committee, a consortium of state agencies including the S. C. Employment Security Commission, the Office of the Governor, the Department of Education, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, and the Commission on Higher Education. The consortium is dedicated to providing a systematic information system for exploring career plans and jobs. Both local and national information is provided.

The Federation Center plans to use the terminal to explore vocational interests, for career planning, to explore educational options, and job openings, and to provide up-to-date job information to JOB applicants and others interested in seeking employment.

All staff members have received training in the operation of the terminal with

particular emphasis on accessing the Jobbank file and the Occupational interest file. If you would like to find out more about this exciting new program offered by the Federation Center, please contact any member of the staff.

Chimes Donated for the Dr. Sam Lawton Memorial Assembly Hall

In loving memory of her beloved husband, Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton; Mrs. Alice Lawton has donated a set of Westminster Chimes to the Dr. Sam Lawton Memorial Assembly Hall at Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind. The Westminster Chimes will play a variety of melodies on the hour and on the half-hour. The Board of Directors of the Rocky Bottom Camp of Blind and the entire membership of the NFB of SC wish to thank Mrs. Lawton and the Lawton family for this wonderful gift. The chimes will serve as a constant reminder to us of the beloved founder of our organization. The Rocky Bottom community will also be enriched by the beautiful sounds of these chimes.

State Convention to be Hosted by National Champs

Clemson University, national football champions, will host the 1982 convention of the NFB of SC. The Clemson House, located on the campus of Clemson University, will serve as headquarters for our convention. Federation officials are presently working out details with the management of the Clemson House.

In the May issue of the *Palmetto Blind* there will be complete details. Room rates will be extremely low and accommodations will be good. Please do not make

your reservation at this time. As was the case in 1980 and 1981, all reservations will be processed at the Federation Center of the Blind.

In order for Clemson University to better accommodate the NFB of SC, it has been necessary to change the convention dates to August 6, 7, and 8, 1982, one week later than originally scheduled. Just as all of us are proud of Clemson's football team, the Federation's convention for 1982 will also be of championship caliber. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar — August 6, 7, and 8, 1982.

White Oak Retreat for Blind Scheduled

The Missions Department of the S. C. Baptist Convention is planning a retreat for the blind at White Oak Conference Center located near Winnsboro for Friday evening, April 16 and Saturday, April 17, 1982. The retreat will begin Friday at 5:00 p.m. with registration, dinner at 6:00 p.m. and will close at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. The cost will be \$19.00 per person with two people in a room or \$23.00 per person with one in a room. In addition there will be a \$3.00 registration fee.

The following statement is a new policy at White Oak. "A deposit of \$10.00 per person is required. If a cancellation is made two months in advance, the full amount will be refunded. If a cancellation is made 30-59 days in advance, one-half of the deposit will be refunded. There will be no refund for cancellations made less than a month prior to a meeting."

To register, send your name, address, and phone number to White Oak Conference Center, White Oak, S. C. 29176. Please state that you are registering for the Retreat for the Blind. A deposit of \$10.00 must accompany your letter. Just remember, April 16-17, 1982 are the dates.

From the President's Desk

by Donald Capps

1982 has certainly begun with a flurry of activity; so much is going on. There appears to be good reason for optimism as well as cause for genuine concern. The Federation family in South Carolina is certainly vibrant and growing. Anyone attending the statewide seminar in January could tell at a glimpse that the Federation is an organization full of vitality and unity. The Federation continues to work with many state officials in seeking improvement for blind citizens in all areas.

In November two of the state's constitutional officers, Comptroller General — Earle E. Morris, Jr. and Adjutant General — T. Eston Marchant, visited Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind. The Attorney General of South Carolina, Daniel McLeod, was with us for our statewide seminar in January and provided valuable information and advice. While the Federation continues to be disappointed in recent court decisions affecting the blind, these rulings are only temporary setbacks, and simply challenge Federation officials to work harder for realistic solutions.

It was good to see so many new Federationists at the recent statewide seminar. While the NFB of SC is already a large statewide organization, we need even more members as it is important for the organization to be as representative as possible. Additionally, each member has much to offer and there is strength in numbers. The NFB of SC strives to keep pace with the changing times in which we live.

We are pleased over the installation of a new computer terminal at the Federation Center of the Blind which unquestionably will be a useful service. Federa-

tionists continue to give generously to help us keep pace with technological changes. The computer terminal was purchased through sacrificial giving of Federationists.

Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind continues to be supported by individuals, Federationists, chapters, divisions, and other supporters. The NFB of SC has grown so much in recent years that it has become an extremely big program and more sophisticated in character. We now enjoy much interaction with other agencies, organizations and state officials. All of this is to say that the blind citizens of South Carolina are far better off because the NFB of SC exists and is on the job each day across the state. As evidenced in the articles appearing in this issue of the *Palmetto Blind*, there are many challenges with which we are confronted. However, there are many opportunities for us as Federationists and all of us must re-double our efforts to carry out our programs in the most effective manner. In recent months we have done considerable travel across the state and it is quite apparent that the Federation family is united and working hard. We salute our statewide membership and wish for each and every one of you the finest year you have ever had.

Final Thought

At Day's End

Is anybody happier because
you passed his way?
Does anyone remember that
you spoke to him today?
The day is almost over, and
its toiling time is through;
Is there anyone to utter now
a kindly word to you?
Can you say tonight, in part-
ing with the day that's
slipping fast,
That you helped a single
brother of the many
that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over
what you did or said;
Does the man whose hopes
were fading now with
courage look ahead
Did you waste the day, or
lose it? Was it well or
sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kind-
ness, or a scar of dis-
content?
As you close your eyes in
slumber, do You think
that God will say,
You have earned one more
tomorrow by the work
you did today''?

— John Hall

The Palmetto Blind

National Federation of the Blind of S. C.

(formerly the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)

119 S. Kilbourne Road

Columbia, S. C. 29205



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The Palmetto Blind

The Voice of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina



Commissioner Bowles, President Capps, and First Vice President Bell celebrate the dedication of the Robert R. Bell Federation Center of the Blind.

MAY 1982

The Voice of
The National Federation of the Blind
of South Carolina
(Formerly The South Carolina
Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)

Editor: Donald C. Capps

Published Quarterly

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, formerly known as The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, is chartered under the laws of the state of South Carolina to promote the social, spiritual and economic well-being of all the blind of South Carolina.

The *Palmetto Blind* is provided free of charge by The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina to all blind South Carolinians and other interested persons, and is available in print, audio cassette editions, and braille from the Federation Center of the Blind.

Readers who receive the audio cassette editions are requested to handle the tapes with care and to *always return them promptly* for the benefit of other

users. If you should receive a bad tape, please let the Center know by dropping us a note enclosed with the bad cassette so that appropriate action may be taken to remove that cassette from our library. Braille and print copies may be retained by recipients for their personal libraries.

If you or a friend wish to remember The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc., also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, in your will you can do so by employing the following language:

"I give, devise and bequeath unto The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc. also known as The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, P. O. Box 4174, Columbia, S. C. the sum of \$_____ (or "_____ percent of my net estate", or "the following stocks and bonds:_____") to be used for its worthy purposes on behalf of blind persons and to be held and administered by direction of its Executive Committee and Board of Directors."

Another Federation Facility Serving Blind.....	1
State President Observes Important Anniversary.....	2
Congressman Napier Responds to Federationists.....	3
Up-Date on the Spartanburg TEC Dilemma.....	4
Marsh Elected Chairman of Center Advisory Board.....	8
Federationist Files Litigation Against the Department of Social Services.....	8
A Continuing Classic.....	9
Twenty-Fourth Chapter Organized.....	9
Last Call for Minneapolis.....	10
Clemson . . . Get Ready for the NFB of SC!.....	10
Second Annual Fabulous Frog Festival Planned — by Jerry Whittle.....	11
Applications Being Accepted for Scholarship Awards.....	11
1982 Ellen Beach Mack Home Award Largest To Date.....	11
In Memoriam.....	12
Light — by Mrs. Alice Lawton.....	12
Rocky Bottom Is In Full Swing.....	13
State Laws Concerning Blind Voters Lack Clarity.....	16
Flashback.....	18
Four Chapters Now Make Up The SCACB.....	18
From the President's Desk — by Donald Capps.....	18
Final Thought.....	20

Another Federation Facility Serving Blind

The Robert R. Bell Federation Center of the Blind was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, April 25. This becomes the third Federation facility in South Carolina providing services to the blind. In 1961, the Federation Center of the Blind was established in Columbia and was expanded in 1970 and again in 1978, and has served the state's blind since its inception. Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind was officially established in January 1979. The Robert R. Bell Federation Center of the Blind was made possible primarily as a result of two or three benefactors who live in the Laurens area. However, through the resourcefulness and generosity of the Laurens County Chapter members and other friends, the former residence has been beautifully renovated and furnished. It will provide a useful and functional center for the blind of that area. The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina congratulates its First Vice President Robert R. Bell, for whom this Center is named, as well as the entire Laurens County Chapter. There was good news media coverage of the dedicatory service. For the benefit of *Palmetto Blind* readers, two of the articles, one being an editorial, are being herewith reproduced.

New center 'beacon' to blind

Laurens County Advertiser, April 26, 1982

A dream came true for Laurens County's blind citizens on a wet, cold Sunday afternoon with the dedication of the Robert R. Bell Federation Center of the Blind.

More than 75 people, including state and local officials from the National Federation of the Blind, braved the cold rain to attend the dedication service on

the porch of the center at 1103 N. Harper Street in Laurens.

Bell, for whom the Center is named, has served as an officer in the Greenville County and Laurens County chapters of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. He has also served on the governing board of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind.

"The Bell Center will stand as a tangible expression of the blind in this area," said Donald C. Capps, president of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. "It will represent a beacon of hope to the blind.

"It will bring together the blind from all walks of life, some who have accepted their blindness and some who, unfortunately, have not," Capps said. "We will have meetings, discussions and conferences (at the center). Other people will join us (and) we will be accepted as individuals."

"I think the (Bell) Center ties in with the (goals of the) National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina," he said. "Simply put, the National Federation of the Blind (goal) is to promote equality, opportunity and security for the nation's blind."

"They are truly noble goals," Capps said, adding that the blind seek equality of education, the opportunity to be employed and the security from fear.

"When we dedicate something, we put it aside," said State Senator David Taylor.

The legislator recalled participating in the organizational meeting of the Laurens County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina in 1975.

"This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life," he said. "It has been a learning experience. Blindness need not be an end to a full life. We must help the blind find jobs."

U. S. Representative Ken Holland, whose Fifth Congressional District includes Laurens County, lashed out at the Reagan Administration's budget cuts and their effect on the blind, including budgetary cutbacks in vocational education which affect the blind.

"We have a political philosophy in Washington that took power and said it would balance the (federal) budget," said Holland, who announced late last week that he will not seek re-election to Congress. "It has gone about that with a vengeance."

"(But) we also have other budgets," he said. "We have the budget of human compassion. We have the budget of love and understanding. These budgets also have to be balanced. These are out of the budget in Washington."

Maxine Bowles, a commissioner of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, also reminded the audience of budget cuts but pointed out that the blind must continue to work together.

"Regardless of the budget crisis, I want to encourage each of us not to forget the importance of laboring together," Mrs. Bowles said.

"There are challenges we must face," she said. "We must do it now and we must do it together . . . I feel like we have a long way to go. You know and I know there will be no turning back."

Dedication galore

Laurens County Advertiser, April 28, 1982

A very special dedication ceremony was held Sunday afternoon by a Laurens County group overflowing with dedicated members doing exemplary things in the community.

The Laurens County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina dedicated its Robert R. Bell

Federation Center Sunday afternoon by holding an open house and reception.

Located at 1103 North Harper Street in Laurens, the center will be the group's headquarters and a place from which the organization's soldiers can wage their war against prejudice and ignorance.

Blind people are in the minority and like many other minority groups they often become the victims of discrimination and a lack of understanding on the part of the majority.

The Laurens County Chapter of the National Federation works to stamp out the kind of thinking that holds back blind people, whether it's related to an individual's job or his everyday life at home and in the community.

The chapter does outstanding work. We congratulate it on the official opening of its new facility.

State President Observes Important Anniversary

Thirty-five years ago on April 15, 1947 a tall, lanky teenage boy reported to work in a small insurance office. Having just graduated from business college and armed with his diploma, Donald Capps was now employed as a claims examiner trainee with Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Company. Capps was proud of his first full-time job which had a starting salary of \$135.00 per month. Excited over his new job, Capps was eager to learn every phase of the operation of the claims department from mailing claim forms to processing complicated claims. In recognition of 35 years of service to Colonial Life, Capps received the following letter from the company's president:

Dear Don:

I am delighted to hear that April 15

marks your 35th Anniversary with Colonial. Congratulations for an outstanding accomplishment!

It must be exciting to know you have been part of the growth Colonial has experienced since 1974. However, it is the loyalty and hard work of dedicated employees like you who have made the Company what it is today.

Don, I just wanted you to know how much we all appreciate the contributions you have made over the years. Thank you for a job well-done!

Best regards,
Charles B. Beard

In response to President Beard's congratulatory letter, Capps responded as follows:

Dear Mr. President:

I want to thank you for taking time out from your busy schedule to write a personal note to me extending congratula-

tions for my 35th anniversary on April 15. You are correct that it is exciting to have been an integral part of such an outstanding Company for 35 years. It has been meaningful and rewarding to both my family and myself. Whatever small contributions I have been able to make to the growth and prosperity of the Company is a source of personal pride and gratitude. Chuck, your kind expression is sincerely appreciated and all of us are proud of the great progress the Company is making under your leadership. I am happy to be a part of the Colonial team, having always considered myself as a Company man, and if there is any manner in which I may be able to further serve, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,
Don Capps

Capps will be honored later in the year by Colonial Life for his many years of service at a special recognition banquet.

Congressman Napier Responds to Federationists

In February a five-member delegation representing the NFB of SC proudly participated in the "March on Washington," an annual program in which the blind themselves call upon members of Congress to focus attention upon the needs and concerns of blind Americans. South Carolina was represented by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Capps, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gardner and Suzanne Bridges. The entire eight-member South Carolina Congressional delegation was visited. Despite the many problems facing the nation at this particular time, South Carolina Federationists were received warmly and with understanding. Evidence of this understanding and support is contained

in a recent letter to President Capps from Congressman Napier.

Dear Mr. Capps:

I enjoyed meeting with you when you were in Washington, and wanted to be in touch to advise you of action I have taken in regard to the legislative memorandum for the National Federation of the Blind.

First, I have agreed to cosponsor Representative Burton's bill requiring the payment of minimum wage to the blind. In addition, I have cosponsored Representative Lehman's legislation to amend the Social Security Act and

eliminate the earnings limitation for the blind.

It is my understanding that Representative Goldwater is currently working to draft legislation regarding the distribution of federal contracts to sheltered workshops. He is to advise me when this has been completed, and I will follow through when I have received his bill.

Again, it was a pleasure to meet with you, and I hope that you will continue to contact me on issues of concern to your organization.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

John L. Napier
Member of Congress

Up-Date on The Spartanburg TEC Dilemma

Not since the mid-1970s when Henry Watts was the controversial commissioner of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, has the state's blind community been more disturbed that it has been by the action taken by Spartanburg TEC officials last Christmas resulting in the callous removal of four blind vending facility operators. In the February issue of the *Palmetto Blind* a detailed account was given of the inconsiderate and unfair treatment shown the four blind South Carolinians by Spartanburg TEC officials.

Immediately after Spartanburg TEC officials gave notice in September of 1981 to the blind vendors that they would be forced out in December, the NFB of SC initiated steps to avert this tragic loss of employment. The blind already suffer a back breaking 70% unemployment rate. Commission officials made frequent contact with Spartanburg TEC authorities to

discuss any concerns they had regarding the program. From the outset, officials of Spartanburg TEC seemed to indicate that their primary concern was to have an adequate food service operation for their student body. They especially seemed interested in short order or hot food service and a salad bar. They were assured by Commission authorities that this service could be provided and was, in fact, being provided by several vending facilities already in operation by the Commission. As a matter of fact, President Joe Gault of Spartanburg TEC, accompanied by Commission officials, came to Columbia to visit vending facilities operated by the blind which featured hot foods and a salad bar. At that time, President Gault appeared satisfied.

Notwithstanding onsite visits and all other attempts to persuade Spartanburg TEC officials not to remove the blind workers, all appeals for continued employment of the blind fell on deaf ears. In an eleventh hour attempt to salvage the jobs for the blind workers litigation was filed against Spartanburg TEC. In what appears to be apologetic language, Judge Stephen ruled that the two statutes, namely the Vending Facility Law and the Model White Cane Law, appeared to be unclear or ambiguous. Relying upon what he considered to be lack of clarity or ambiguity in the two statutes, and using such legal jargon as "legislative intent" and "legislative scheme," Judge Stephen, despite the apologetic tone of his language, upheld the action taken by Spartanburg TEC. Once again the blind had come out on the short end of the stick. It was a demoralizing and devastating blow to the spirit of the blind community of the state. Many disagree with Judge Stephen's ruling, believing that the Vending Facility statute and the Model White Cane Law are sufficiently clear in language, intent, and purpose.

Legislative Hearing Held

While Judge Stephen's ruling seems to indicate that the "legislative scheme" as applied to the Vending Facility Law and the Model White Cane Law is such that legislative clarification is in order, the NFB of SC did not feel that the 1982 session of the General Assembly was the time to introduce such legislation. There were other considerations as well. However, Senator Heyward McDonald, democrat of Richland County, chairs the Joint Legislative Committee on the Handicapped and recently called a meeting of his committee. The NFB of SC participated in this hearing and was represented by Jerry Whittle. The following paper was presented by Jerry:

"Every citizen of this state should be allowed the dignity of earning one's own living, of pursuing a lifelong career, of sustaining a family. It is a right that is basic to the American system of democracy of government as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The minorities of this country have not always been given this inalienable right to have an equal opportunity, nor have the handicapped citizens of this state and country been accorded equal opportunity to demonstrate their skills and talents.

"Since it is now a well-known fact that over 70% of the employable blind people are unemployed in this country, the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina continues to deplore the action taken by Spartanburg Technical College on December 18, 1981 in which four blind vendors were removed for no apparent reason other than a desire to have their revenue go to the college. These four blind vending stand operators had performed their jobs with distinction and with complete competence during their tenure at Spartanburg TEC, and for their fine

record of service were removed without adequate justification or compensation.

"The State of South Carolina has been sympathetic and understanding through legislation to help all minorities, including blacks and women, in the last several years. The State Legislature has often upheld the inalienable right of all South Carolinians to have an equal opportunity for gainful employment and the dignity of work; consequently, the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina calls upon this special committee and the State of South Carolina to recognize that legally blind persons in this state constitute a legitimate minority, and that we deserve the same respect due and accorded to all minorities of this state. We, the blind, seek protection from purely mercenary and insensitive actions like those taken by Spartanburg TEC officials against four South Carolinians. We also challenge this committee and the State of South Carolina to make the necessary steps to bring about a reversal of such actions in the future and to treat the blind with the same respect given and expected by all citizens in this state, and to protect our right to gainful employment and the dignity of work."

As a result of the NFB of SC's participation, Senator McDonald appointed a subcommittee to study the problems of the blind in the operation of vending facilities in technical colleges with the subcommittee to report back to the full committee on its findings and recommendations. Representative Joyce Hearn of Richland County was appointed as chairman of the subcommittee with other members including Senator Coleman Poag and Federationist Jerry Whittle.

NFB of SC President Confers with Spartanburg TEC President

In order to learn just what has been

happening with the food service operation of Spartanburg TEC since the ouster of the four blind workers five months ago, NFB of SC President Donald Capps recently initiated two telephone conversations with Mr. Joe D. Gault, president of Spartanburg Technical College. These conversations revealed many interesting things. Even though Spartanburg TEC officials have maintained from the beginning that they were simply interested in their student body having a hot food service and salads, and although Commissioner Bowles of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind had assured President Gault that such service could be provided by the Commission's vending facilities, Mr. Gault advised Mr. Capps that during the past five months, since the removal of the blind workers, the student body had primarily relied upon vending machines only. When questioned more closely President Gault stated that approximately once a month some of the students might serve such things as hot dogs and even occasionally the students might serve salads. Asked about the profits from this student operation, President Gault indicated that profits were nominal and probably did not exceed \$50.00. Pointing out that five months had elapsed since the college had removed the blind workers, Mr. Capps asked Mr. Gault why the student body and faculty were still relying upon the vending machines when they had instructed the Commission for the Blind in September 1981 to remove all of the Commission equipment from the premises by December 18, 1981 in order that Spartanburg TEC could install their equipment.

Mr. Gault first responded that they had had delivery problems with the equipment including difficulties in acquiring table tops. Capps then inquired as to the name of the vendor or equipment company responsible for delivering and installing the

food service equipment. At that point Mr. Gault seemingly became concerned and put Mr. Capps on hold for a moment and got another college official on the line who told a different story. This TEC official immediately gave different information making it perfectly clear that there had been no delivery problems with table tops or anything else. In fact, he confirmed that no order had been placed with a vendor or equipment company to date. Mr. Capps was then told that the delay was actually due to "the paperwork" being done by officials of the Purchasing Division of the General Services Administration which had not finalized the bids.

Asked about the people who would replace the four blind workers, Mr. Gault responded that there would be two full-time employees and four part-time employees, with additional student help when necessary. One of the two full-time employees would be the manager and would be paid between \$13,000 and \$14,000 with the other full-time employee being paid between \$8,000 and \$9,000. Thus, the starting annual salaries of the two full-time employees would run between \$21,000 and \$23,000. It was indicated that the four part-time employees would be paid approximately the minimum wage and apparently the student help would be in that range as well. When asked by Capps when he thought the new food service would be in operation Mr. Gault indicated that he had no way of knowing in view of the current tie up of the bids for the new equipment, but he expressed hope it would be soon.

Reminded that Spartanburg TEC received federal funds and therefore was subject to the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Mr. Gault was asked whether or not he would be advertising the positions for the food service operation and also whether he would consider blind applicants for the positions as

required by Section 504. Mr. Gault replied that he was familiar with these federal regulations and would be advertising the positions. He also stated that he would consider blind applicants for the positions on a non-discriminatory basis. Asked about the cost of the new equipment to replace the expensive equipment installed previously by the Commission for the Blind at taxpayers' expense, Mr. Gault replied that he did not know what the cost of the new equipment would be.

Following this initial telephone conversation President Capps conferred with Mr. Virgil Carleson of the Purchasing Division of the General Services Administration. Mr. Carleson confirmed that they were processing bids for the new equipment for Spartanburg TEC. He went on to state that the bids ranged from \$22,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Carleson confirmed that the bids were still being processed as some controversy had developed with respect to various parties having final bids with some equipment companies contesting the bids on the basis that competing bids did not represent equal equipment. Mr. Carleson expressed the hope that this controversy would soon be resolved.

In a second telephone conversation on May 16, Mr. Gault confirmed information furnished by Mr. Carleson concerning the cost of the new equipment. When asked about the source of the funding for the new equipment Mr. Gault said the equipment would be paid for through a loan from the capital fund of Spartanburg TEC. While this was not clarified it would seem reasonable to assume that the capital fund of Spartanburg TEC would consist of either state funds, federal funds, and even private funds and possibly funds from all three sources. Under any circumstances one would have to seriously question the wisdom of any decision to take funds from a capital fund program

and divert them for the purpose of purchasing new equipment replacing good equipment already purchased at taxpayers' expense. President Capps then asked Mr. Gault what the new food operation would be serving which was not being served by the blind operators. Mr. Gault replied that the new food service would be providing short order or hot food and salads. Mr. Gault was silent about the earlier trip he had made to Columbia at which time he, along with Commission officials, visited several Commission operated vending facilities which were serving short order or hot foods and salads.

Mr. Gault was pleasant and cooperative throughout the telephone conferences. The extensive information he furnished along with other Spartanburg TEC officials, as well as that provided by Mr. Virgil Carleson as herein described, makes it perfectly clear that there was no sound or justifiable reason for the cold and heartless removal of the four blind vending operators during the Christmas season. Further, it is crystal clear that taxpayers' funds have been squandered during a time in which the state is undergoing dire financial difficulty with state officials pleading for austerity on the part of the state government. And how about the four blind workers? Well, two are still unemployed, one has gone the way so many other blind persons have had to go — applied for, but not receiving, Social Security benefits; and the fourth person is now working part-time at Goodwill Industries.

Efforts Continue

In the hope of finding some reasonable solution acceptable to both TEC officials and the blind community, NFB of SC President Donald Capps has been communicating with Mr. William Dudley, Executive Director, State Board for Techni-

cal and Comprehensive Education. These communications and negotiations seem to be bearing fruit. There has now been an agreement to hold a meeting with Mr. Dudley and Mr. Francis Bell,

Chairman of the State TEC Board, in the interest of searching for an accommodation which will be mutually beneficial to technical education and the blind community.

Marsh Elected Chairman of Center Advisory Board

Mr. Harry R. Marsh, Vice President of Southern Bell, was recently elected chairman of the Advisory Board of the Federation Center of the Blind. Mr. Marsh, a native of Mississippi, succeeds Mr. David Baker who had served as chairman of the Center for three consecutive two-year terms, the maximum provided under the Center's bylaws.

Active in many civic affairs, Mr. Marsh is president of the Area Three of the Boy Scouts and is holder of the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope Awards. In 1974 Mr. Marsh served as general chairman for United Way in Lexington and Richland counties. He is a past president of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce and was chairman of the Columbia Committee on Economic Development in 1977 and 1978. The business community profits greatly as a result of Mr. Marsh's participation on many boards of businesses and educational institutions. The Federation Center of the Blind is extremely fortunate in having an executive of Mr. Marsh's caliber heading up its distinguished Advisory Board. Mrs. L. P. Armstrong was elected vice chairman of the Center's Advisory Board at the same meeting Mr. Marsh was elected chairman.

Center Has Three New Board Members

The Federation Center of the Blind is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to its prestigious Advisory group. They include Dr. Ralph

Mirse, president of Columbia College, Dr. Marvin Efron, an optometrist and faculty member of the University of South Carolina, and Mr. William K. Richardson, retired and formerly associated with the Veterans Administration. These three gentlemen bring with them a wealth of valuable experience which will undoubtedly prove invaluable to the growth and well-being of the Federation Center. Center officials cordially welcome Dr. Mirse, Dr. Efron, and Mr. Richardson.

Federationist Files Litigation Against the Department of Social Services

Mr. Francis M. Chestnut joined the Williamsburg County Department of Social Services as a social worker in 1965, having graduated one year earlier from the University of South Carolina with a B.A. degree. While his title has changed during his 17-year tenure with DSS, Mr. Chestnut was hired in 1965 in a non-supervisory capacity and 17 years later he continues to be employed in a non-supervisory position. With a good educational background and having applied for supervisory positions and having received satisfactory and above average evaluations, Mr. Chestnut has good reason to believe that he has been by-passed many times during the past 17 years with promotions to supervisory and managerial positions going to those with sight. Simply

stated, Mr. Chestnut firmly believes that he has been discriminated against solely on a basis of blindness in his employment with the Williamsburg County Department of Social Services.

Failing to effect any change in this discriminatory practice personally, Mr. Chestnut ultimately felt the need to file litigation against DSS. Represented by a Columbia law firm, Mr. Chestnut filed a lawsuit against DSS in February in the Richland County Court of Common Pleas. The lawsuit has been brought under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Model White Cane Law, and also under Title 6 of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Among other things, Mr. Chestnut is asking for back pay equivalent to what he should have earned if promoted properly and for a supervisory position commensurate with his education, training and experience. The NFB of SC understands the basis of Mr. Chestnut's action and is supportive of the litigation as qualified blind South Carolinians merit fair and equal job opportunities and promotion.

A Continuing Classic

Just like the classic "Old Man River" the Columbia Chapter of the NFB of SC keeps rolling along year after year. The chapter just successfully promoted its 29th Annual Barbecue on April 29 and for the second consecutive year profits exceeded \$5,000. As a matter of fact, the 1982 barbecue was the most profitable to date.

The first barbecue was held in 1954 and netted only \$100 in profits. This annual classic has become a first-class operation. Chapter members work very hard each year and this year advance ticket sales and tickets sold at the door amounted to approximately 3,000 tickets. Many years of experience have resulted

in a highly organized and successful effort involving many individuals and groups. Without the Boy Scouts serving as guides for the three nights of canvassing — more than 500 tickets would not have been sold. Also, this year a fine group of youngsters from the Carolina Children's Home helped out during the canvas. Many neighbors and friends generously contributed their time during the serving of the barbecue — all day tied up with a great deal of pressure.

Finally, a special thank you goes to L. P. "Princess" Armstrong who has served as hostess for the annual barbecue for 25 consecutive years and is incomparable in this capacity. It is impossible to measure the public goodwill generated by this annual event with thousands of Columbians participating year after year. A debt of gratitude is in order for everyone who helped to make the 29th Annual barbecue of the Columbia Chapter the biggest and best.

Twenty-fourth Chapter Organized

The Hampton County Chapter of the NFB of SC was organized in March. It becomes the twenty-fourth chapter of the ever growing National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

The new chapter's persident is Mrs. Luvenia Heyward. Mrs. Heyward attended the 1981 state convention of the NFB of SC at Presbyterian College and liked what she saw. She also participated in the training conference for chapter presidents recently at the Federation Center of the Blind.

Our thanks goes to Mrs. Gloria Bowers, former president of our Low Country Chapter in Walterboro, who was highly instrumental in the formation of the Hampton County Chapter. Congratulations to our new Hampton County Chapter and welcome to the NFB of SC.

Last Call for Minneapolis

This is the last call for Federationists throughout South Carolina who are planning to ride the two chartered buses to Minneapolis where the 1982 national convention will be held. If you have not already done so, it is imperative that you now sign up for the free bus trip. You will also need to mail your check or money order for \$25.00 made payable to the NFB of SC to cover the deposit on your room for the overnight stops en route to and from Minneapolis. Your check should be mailed to the Federation Center of the Blind, 119 South Kilbourne Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29205. The check is not refundable but, of course, will be applied toward the cost of your room for the two nights we will stop over in Indianapolis, Indiana. Naturally you should make your reservations at the Leamington Hotel in Minneapolis if you have not already done so. Please advise the Leamington that you will be arriving on Sunday, July 4 and departing on Saturday, July 10.

At this writing a substantial number of members have already signed up for the bus trip but there is some space left on the two buses if you will act now. The NFB of SC is assured of having a large delegation at the national convention and once again should rank high in attendance.

Incidentally, because of health, Bob Oglesby's doctor has suggested that he not make the trip and Marshall Tucker was elected by the Board as official delegate replacing Mr. Oglesby.

The alternate delegate is Tootsie Gatlin. At this late date should you have any questions you should telephone the Federation Center of the Blind at 254-3777 to save time. All aboard. See you in Minneapolis!

Clemson . . . Get Ready For The NFB of SC!

Clemson University will host the 1982 convention of the NFB of SC. Delegates will be staying in the Clemson House located on the campus of Clemson University. The Thunderbird Motor Inn, Highway 123 North, Clemson, South Carolina, will also be available for those preferring this type of accommodation.

Room rates for the Clemson House are extremely low. They are: Single — one night \$15.50, two nights \$27.50; Double — one night \$9.50 per person, two nights \$15.50 per person. Federation officials have finalized the convention plans with the management of Clemson House and everything is in order. All reservations should be made directly to the Federation Center of the Blind, 119 South Kilbourne Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29205. If you wish to stay at the Thunderbird Motor Inn your reservations should be made directly to the Thunderbird.

Several weeks prior to the time of the convention which will be held the weekend of August 6, 7 and 8, 1982, you will be receiving complete details of the convention including a reservation form for Clemson House. This form will give all of the details you will need in order to make your reservation properly. The Clemson House is a fine facility. Meeting rooms are plush and spacious. You will also like the room accommodations as they are nice. Suzanne Bridges, executive director of the Federation Center of the Blind, will again serve as coordinator for the convention. If you should have any questions concerning your reservation please check with Suzanne at 254-3777. Much planning for the 1982 state convention has already begun. Delegates may rest assured that the 1982 convention will indeed be the biggest and best. See you in Clemson — Home of the Champs!

Second Annual Fabulous Frog Festival Planned

by Jerry Whittle

The Federation Center of the Blind will be sponsoring its Second Frog Festival at the state convention in Clemson in August. Each person attending the state convention is asked to bring some type of item which can be sold to help raise money for the Center. Baked items, handicrafts, books, knitted items, wood carving, almost anything except old clothes, will be acceptable. The sale will be held on Saturday afternoon at the Clemson House. So Paws with us at Clemson and bring and buy these home-made items to help fund the good old Federation Center of the Blind in Columbia. Let's make the Second Annual Fabulous Frog Festival bigger than even the Pumpkintown Festival or the Turnip Green Scalding near Dead Dog.

Applications Being Accepted for Scholarship Awards

Applications for scholarships administered by the NFB of SC and its chapters are now being accepted. Annually the NFB of SC presents the Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton Scholarship Award to a deserving blind college student. The presentation is traditionally made during the banquet of the state convention. Robert L. Oglesby, 601 Maple Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302, is chairman of the Lawton Scholarship Committee. You may either request an application from Mr. Oglesby or from the Federation Center of the Blind. Mr. Oglesby and his committee will carefully screen all applicants for the \$300.00 award. This is the tenth annual Dr.

Samuel Miller Lawton Scholarship Award to be presented. Previous recipients include: James Robinson, Suzanne Bridges, Sheila Compton, Evelyn Easler, Earlene Gardner, Pat Burgess and Glenn McCoy.

For some time the Aiken County Chapter of the NFB of SC has presented during the convention banquet the Houston 'Andy' Anderson Scholarship Award. You should write to Mrs. Earlene Gardner, chairman of this committee, at P. O. Box 2068, Aiken, South Carolina 29801. If you have any further questions concerning these scholarships you may write directly to Mr. Oglesby, Mrs. Gardner or the Federation Center of the Blind.

1982 Ellen Beach Mack Home Award Largest To Date

In 1981 the Ellen Beach Mack Home Award was in the amount of \$999.60. In 1982 the award will be substantially larger, exceeding \$1,000.00. Thus, the lucky recipient of the 1982 award will have considerably greater means in purchasing a new home or making much needed repairs.

The NFB of SC's First Vice President Robert R. Bell, Route 1 Box 737, Laurens, South Carolina 29360, is the chairman of the Ellen Beach Mack Home Award committee. Applications may be secured from Mr. Bell, the Federation Center of the Blind, or Commissioner Maxine Bowles, South Carolina Commission for the Blind, 1430 Confederate Avenue, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. All blind South Carolinians are eligible to apply for the Ellen Beach Mack Home Award.

Last year Mrs. Caroline Govan of Orangeburg was the happy recipient of the award. It is time for interested persons to file applications. Mr. Bell and his com-

mittee will carefully process the applications. The 1982 winner of the Ellen Beach Mack Home Award will be announced at the banquet of the annual convention of the NFB of SC on Saturday evening, August 7, 1982 at Clemson University.

In Memoriam

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina expresses sincere sympathy to Jerry Whittle in the death of his wife, Karin, the latter part of March. Our sympathy is also extended to Frances Messer who lost her father and grandmother in March. Coley Stinson, a member of the Laurens County Chapter, lost his wife in April and has the sincere sympathy of all of us. Lee Spradley who joined the Spartanburg Chapter shortly after it was organized in 1944 also recently passed away after a long illness. Recently word reached the *Palmetto Blind* of the death of Wallace Flanigan some time ago. Wallace was an associate member of the Columbia Chapter and resided in Clover. The NFB of SC extends sympathy to the family of Robert Wilson of Warrentonville who died during the middle of April. Robert was a member-at-large of the Federation and attended the Columbia Chapter for a number of years. To all of the loved ones and families of these individuals who have recently died, the NFB of SC extends sincere sympathy. Each and every person will be greatly missed.

Light by Mrs. Alice Lawton

(Editor's Note: The *Palmetto Blind* is grateful to Mrs. Lawton for making this very interesting article available to our readers.)

Why does Mrs. Lawton give a lamp to a blind person? That's crazy! Doesn't she know that a blind person can't see? Oh, yes, they can "see." They can see plenty! Even the totally blind need a lamp if that one is to be a student. Do you know what a lamp is? It is something that offers light for visual perception. Yes, totally blind need a lamp, that is, if they are going to be students. Being a student takes lots of reading. Being a college student takes more. It is tremendous the amount of reading that is required in college. I'll try to explain. A good light is important for good reading. During the nearly fifty years I was married to Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton, I did a lot of reading aloud. Dr. Lawton had retinitis pigmentosa which is a gradual deterioration of the retina. He was deeply appreciative of even the tiniest bit of light. When a number of blind people in Spartanburg, South Carolina, wanted to organize into a club for spiritual and social benefit, Dr. Lawton suggested that the name be the Aurora Club of the Blind since the aurora is the highest light on earth. It reaches up and up as far as anyone can imagine. It is beautiful and inspiring. Its inspiration comes from its power to send forth glorious volumes of tremendous beauty. We were all reminded that Jesus had said, "I am the light of the world" and "Ye are the light of the world." He also said, "Let your light so shine." Thus, this great organization of the blind of South Carolina, now an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, began with an abiding appreciation

of light, of clear vision, of understanding and insight.

Dr. Lawton's college and seminary degrees were earned before Talking Book Machines, cassettes, or recordings. I did the reading aloud for his graduate degrees. Even before air conditioning I read aloud the entire Bible from "cover to cover" calling every word clearly during the month of August 1930. Most of that project was in the cool shade of trees sitting comfortably in a chair or lying more comfortably in a hammock with plenty of cushions. No headaches, no eyestrain. It takes plenty of self-discipline and plenty of light to be a good reader. Sometime I said, "This is fun controlling the diaphragm, the voice box, the facial muscles, the tongue, the eye movement so that one listening could understand." Often I thought that listening, staying alert, storing the knowledge was the greater task.

At Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, where we did our graduate study, I attained the record of the fastest, most intelligible reader. I could read for straight two hours then a break for coffee or fruit juice, another two hours, and another break, then for two more hours, making six hours which amounted to a morning well spent, no hurry, no headache, no eyestrain, plenty of light and self-discipline.

Then one day not too long ago, I thought of the generous scholarship you are giving to a blind student in South Carolina who wants a college education. You graciously named that scholarship for Dr. Lawton. He knew the value of education to anyone, how important it is to gain understanding. I kept thinking how a poor light will harm the partially sighted. A good reader with a good light can become a better reader by sheer determination to follow the rules. I know for I became adept and could read with ease.

In those days, I never grew tired or hoarse, I learned to pay attention, too, so we both were able to pass all the examinations. I learned the absolute necessity of a good light if one is to acquire the skill I attained.

I want our South Carolina blind college students to reach the best. In thinking this over, I decided to give a reading lamp to the blind student who receives the Lawton Scholarship for college. I gave \$600.00, the interest of which is to go each year to the recipient of the Lawton Scholarship or to the next in line if the present recipient has already received a reading lamp.

(Editor's Note: Recently Mrs. Lawton gave an additional \$400.00 to the scholarship fund.)

Rocky Bottom Is In Full Swing

Activity at Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind has been accelerated with the arrival of springtime. While Rocky Bottom is beautiful year-round and activities are ongoing, warmer weather seems to attract more people.

This past January Rocky Bottom was a veritable winter wonderland with more than 12 inches of snow on the ground. Our caretaker, Mrs. Carver, reports that she was "snow bound" for a week, but took advantage of nature to enjoy the beautiful scenery as there was snow everywhere blanketing the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Both Chimney Top Creek and Rocky Bottom Creek glistened with ice. For several days the temperature hovered around 0 degrees.

Beginning in April there has been a tremendous upspring in activity as various chapters of the NFB of SC and others are visiting Rocky Bottom week-

ly. Groups from the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind have also been guests at Rocky Bottom. A group from the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is expected during the summer months. Camp officials are also pleased that other groups including senior citizens, community and church groups, women's groups, as well as various civic organizations are visiting Rocky Bottom.

Recently a statewide group of ladies representing the South Carolina Homemakers Extension Clubs held an important meeting at Rocky Bottom. During the meeting the Homemakers Clubs voted to adopt as a statewide project the sale of flower seeds from Park Seed Company. The South Carolina Extension Homemakers program is comprised of 347 chapters statewide, and all of these chapters will be selling seeds next year. These 347 chapters are organized in 45 of the state's 46 counties. This is particularly significant in that Rocky Bottom is pleased to be associated with such a fine state organization and it will result in much needed monetary assistance next year. Much credit goes to Mrs. Jean Watson of Pickens for spearheading this project.

Many other camp projects are ongoing or in the planning stage. Plans are moving ahead for the Second Annual "Fun Day" to be held on Labor Day. Mrs. Mildred Cantrell of Liberty is serving as chairman of "Fun Day" and will be working with many "Friends of the Blind" in this project. Additionally, our Pickens County Chapter will co-sponsor "Fun Day."

Quilting Party

For some time now Rocky Bottom has been the site of an old time quilting party. Mrs. Eunice Carver, camp caretaker, has headed up this "party" which has

been a highly productive undertaking. Rocky Bottom is definitely located in "Clemson Country." You guessed it — Mrs. Carver and her group have completed a beautiful quilt in Clemson colors of orange and purple with no fewer than 18 awesome tiger paws. Any Clemson supporter is bound to admire this unique quilt. Tickets are available for this "Tiger Masterpiece" at \$1.00 each. You Clemson supporters will want to purchase a handful of tickets. The tiger quilt will be given away during the state convention. As all of you know, the state convention will be held at none other than the home of the Tigers — Clemson University.

Another Clemson quilt, of equal stature for sure, is quietly but very carefully being quilted and will be a special attraction for "Fun Day" at Rocky Bottom. Proceeds from this unique project will be used for the operation and development of Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind. Many hours have been devoted to this project and Rocky Bottom officials are grateful to Mrs. Carver and others who have given unselfishly of their time.

Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton Memorial Assembly Hall Continues to Progress

Progress on the Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton Memorial Assembly Hall is continuing. The rustic chapel constructed more than fifty years ago in the 1920s was in bad need of repairs when the NFB of SC assumed operation of the camp three years ago. Since that time the National Guard and Navy Seabees have contributed hundreds of hours of free labor. Thousands of dollars of materials have also been contributed. At this writing, all of the windows have now been installed. All of the electrical wiring has been completed. So that the assembly hall can be used year-round, it has been well insulat-

ed. Paneling, in keeping with the rustic appearance of the building, is virtually complete throughout. All doors have been installed. Soon, modern ceiling fans with built-in lighting will be installed. Work remains to be done on the ceiling and roof.

While you will note that tremendous progress has already been made, the work has been tedious. In many instances, the workers found the going quite slow and at times they had to completely reconstruct window spaces to install new windows. It is hoped that the Dr. Samuel Miller Lawton Memorial Assembly Hall will be completed in the near future, at which time there will be a special dedication.

Consultant Has Helped

For two months between January and March, Mr. Jim Rousmaniere, a special consultant from Long Island, New York, was associated with the Rocky Bottom program. Mr. Rousmaniere made many contacts and enlarged upon programs previously initiated in the development of Rocky Bottom. Already Rocky Bottom has benefitted from Mr. Rousmaniere's efforts to the program and further assistance is anticipated in the future.

News Media Coverage Excellent

From its inception the Rocky Bottom program has received excellent news media coverage. In recent weeks numerous extensive articles have appeared in upstate newspapers, many featuring pictures. Also, WFBC-TV has been carrying public service announcements for approximately two years. As a result of this

very helpful media coverage, everyone in the upstate area knows about Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind.

Bottom Line

The bottom line is that for the first time, blind South Carolinians have available to them a free year-round camping facility. Hundreds of blind persons and their families and friends have already taken advantage of this unique service. Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind has been in existence now for slightly more than three years and was a "faith" project from its inception. During the past three years more than \$200,000 in cash, services, furnishings and materials have been raised. The NFB of SC is justifiably proud of this ministry of service to the blind and is grateful to the many individuals and groups who have contributed to the growth and progress of Rocky Bottom.

Unfortunately, the country has been in the grips of a serious recession almost the entire time the NFB of SC has been developing Rocky Bottom. This undoubtedly has had an effect but Federation officials have worked hard and its many friends have certainly pitched in and, despite the recession, progress has been heartwarming. While substantial funds have been raised toward the construction of a swimming pool, at this writing, more funding will be needed in order to complete this project for the 1982 summer months. There are many pending proposals and it is conceivable that pool construction could take place within several weeks. Under any circumstances, blind South Carolinians are enjoying recreation in some of the state's most beautiful country. Who would deny, in this day of rat races, that leisure and recreation are needed by all.

State Laws Concerning Blind Voters Lack Clarity

Present Congressional consideration of an extension of the Voting Rights Act has focused attention upon state laws as they affect blind voters. In February a delegation from the NFB of SC visited with Senator J. Strom Thurmond in his Washington office and quickly gained his support of an amendment to the Voting Rights Act enabling a blind voter to select the person of his choice to assist him in preparing his ballot. Since state laws also have a significant bearing on the method of voting, the NFB of SC had South Carolina's laws as they relate to blind voters researched by counsel. While the research was thorough the results were both interesting and confusing. Under the section of the South Carolina Statute No. 7-13-780 entitled "Designation of Voters who may receive assistance" it is not entirely clear as to who may actually assist a physically handicapped or blind person in a voting booth. Under Section 7-13-770 of the statute entitled "Unauthorized persons not allowed within guardrail: Voter may obtain assistance" it is stated that such a person may appeal to the managers for assistance in voting and the chairman of the managers shall appoint one of the managers and a bystander, who must be an elector of that precinct, to be designated by the voter to assist him in preparing his ballot. After the voter's ballot has been prepared the bystander so appointed shall immediately leave the vicinity of the guardrail, provided, that in lieu of the above assistance a person may have his spouse render him assistance in voting. In attempting to interpret this portion of the statute, several questions arise. First of all, does this contemplate that a manager and a bystander be pres-

ent in the booth with the voter or is a permissible interpretation of the phrase "in lieu of the above assistance" contemplate that only the voter and his spouse may be in the booth? The unclear language of the statutes has resulted in opinions by two different Attorney Generals in 1958 and 1966. In 1958, Attorney General T. C. Callison stated that it clearly appeared that a blind individual could designate his wife as the one to assist in preparing the ballot. He added, however, that it does not necessarily mean that the managers shall not supply one of the managers to be present at the preparation of such ballot. Attorney General Callison's opinion was concurred in by Assistant Attorney General James B. Ellisor in 1966. However, it is very significant that the above opinions were decided prior to the date Section 7-13-770 was amended in 1970. The 1970 amendment to the code added the proviso that "In lieu of the above assistance a person may have his spouse render him assistance in voting." Counsel for the NFB of SC has concluded that it is not definite whether this proviso should be read in light of the earlier Attorney General opinions with the result being that a spouse must be the designated bystander to assist the voter along with a manager. However, the other argument would be that the phrase "in lieu of the above assistance," contemplates eliminating the assistance of the manager and designated bystander with the result being that the blind voter and spouse shall be alone in the booth. Counsel for the NFB of SC further states that in their opinion the latter interpretation is the better one. Counsel also agrees with NFB of SC that the intended purposes of the statutes can be better served by allowing only the blind voter and spouse in the booth. Additionally, the NFB of SC recognizes that there are blind voters who have no spouse and therefore in such

situations the blind voter should be able to select the person of his choice to assist in preparing his ballot. This position is compatible with the position wholly acceptable by Senator Thurmond in the Federal Law. As indicated in the beginning the South Carolina Statute as

amended plus earlier Attorney General opinions still lack clarity. Thus, the NFB of SC will want to consider sponsoring a clarifying amendment to the statute and possibly also secure a current opinion from the Attorney General.

Flashback

(Editor's Note: This article appeared 24 years ago in the *Palmetto Auroran* — 20 additional chapters and two divisions have been established since that time.)

Four Chapters Now Make Up the SCACB

After almost two years of persistence and hard work, we are glad to report to you that there is now a chapter of the S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind in Greenville, the state's third largest city. The Greenville Aurora Club held its first meeting May 18 and heard an inspiring address by Mr. Max Lawton, brother of our own Dr. Samuel Lawton. The president of the Greenville chapter is Mr. William Harry Patterson. Mr. Patterson, prior to the loss of the largest portion of his vision some three years ago, was in the wholesale dry goods business. He now operates a concession stand. Other officers of the Greenville chapter are Mr. George Shelton, Vice President, Miss Evelyn McCarter, Secretary, Mr. Olen Pruitt, Treasurer, Miss Margaret South, Social Director, and Mr. J. C. Posey, Music Director. Many thought that we would never be able to organize a chapter in Greenville, and while it was necessary to fight a long and hard battle, victory has been achieved. The Greenville Aurora Club meets the third Sunday in every month at the Y.W.C.A. The time of their monthly meeting is 3 p.m. Its new president, Mr. Patterson, as well as its other officers and members, welcomes all blind persons of the Greenville area, as well as all over the state, to the regular monthly meetings. There is now a meeting of the S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind every Sunday in the year except in those months which have five Sundays. We welcome

you, Greenville, most cordially, into the S. C. Aurora Club of the Blind; and our hats are off to such a courageous group of blind citizens.

From the President's Desk

by Donald Capps

Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong was among those who helped to make popular the song "What A Wonderful World." And indeed it is a wonderful world. As big as the world is, all of us still have our "own little world." If you will pardon a personal reference, now that I am approaching nearly 30 years of volunteer service to the blind of this state and nation, let me share with you some of the things of "my world." At the outset, I totally agree that it is a wonderful world. While "my world," just as yours, consists of many precious parts including loved ones, family, both private and professional pursuits embracing a successful career, let me share with you a part of "my world" as it relates to nearly three decades of work with and for the blind. It became more apparent to me when I became involved in the organized blind movement in 1953 that there existed a wide gap between the "world of the blind" and the "world of the sighted." I realized that I must recognize the reasons for this big gap. In the beginning I wanted desperately to do everything in my power to improve the quality of life for the blind. Soon, however, I was to learn that I had embarked upon a mission and ministry which would prove rewarding, challenging, and frustrating. I am glad I did not heed the advice of some who expressed the viewpoint the blind could never be a viable force in South Carolina. They were simply too vulnerable from all kinds of pressures which could be applied to keep

them in line according to the old-timers. Perhaps it was my youth and inexperience; but, whatever it was I did not believe it.

The problems were quickly identified. I soon learned that the blind for the most part had little self-confidence and unfortunately many looked to the sighted to lead the way and thereby control their destinies. There were serious attitudinal difficulties which had to be overcome and this has been accomplished to a great degree. It is now respectable to be blind. I also quickly learned much more about public attitudes concerning blindness which were far less wholesome three decades ago than they are today. Rejecting the view of the old-timers, I never doubted that the blind did not have the intelligence and discipline to unify and work together to improve their lot. Elected president of the Columbia Chapter in 1954 and state president in 1956, I talked to every blind South Carolinian I could to enlist his or her membership. The Charleston Chapter was organized in 1955 and soon the Greenville Chapter was added. Indeed the blind began to unite like never before in South Carolina.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my many years of participation in the organized blind movement lies in the fact that the blind of South Carolina have truly proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are disciplined, intelligent, and extremely capable in governing themselves. Today, the NFB of SC with a statewide membership of over 800 is a viable and cohesive organization. This is the net result of blind persons unified and working hand in hand. This unity based on sound individual and collective leadership has led to many other rewarding accomplishments. The blind began to have their own fund raising projects. The blind were responsible for the passage of many

pieces of highly beneficial legislation. The blind began to work in meaningful partnership with the sighted. The rewarding accomplishments I have been fortunate to experience during my long career with the Federation are simply too numerous to enumerate in this format.

Earlier I spoke of challenge. Throughout the years there have been many challenges and we have been triumphant on many occasions. The master plan for the development of the Rocky Bottom Camp for the Blind project carefully thought out involves hundreds of thousands of dollars to achieve. Needless to say, in good times, the Rocky Bottom project would be extremely challenging not to mention these times of serious recession. The Federation's will and spirit in our opinion will in the end, however, be sufficient to accomplish the master plan for Rocky Bottom.

The Spartanburg TEC's dilemma as well as the overall technical college situation represents a challenge. Once again the persistent efforts of the Federation to achieve sensible and fair treatment for the blind in this area will be achieved.

I also spoke of frustration — yes — “my world,” just as yours, has its frustrating moments. During the past 29 years I believe that I have been involved in just about every conceivable situation in what many of us commonly refer to as “blind work.” Serving as state president of an organization with more than 800 members has plenty of opportunity for interaction. The scope of this responsibility, of course, has its moments of stress, but it has also afforded me the rewarding opportunity to grow and help others to achieve a better way of life. I learned a long time ago that people problems are by far the greatest problems in life. At the same time I learned that, if you demon-

strate a sincere interest in people and try to help them, the problems frequently seem much smaller and are often actually

solved. That's what the Federation is all about — working with people — primarily blind people.

Final Thought

This old prayer, which was found in a Long Island inn, could well be our prayer today:

“Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older. Keep me from getting too talkative and thinking that I must say something on every subject that comes up. Release me from trying to straighten out everybody's affairs. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful but not bossy. Thou knowest, Lord, that what I want most is friends at the end.”



The Palmetto Blind

National Federation of the Blind of S. C.
(formerly the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind, Inc.)
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